

'Times' report sent to privileges committee

COMMONS

On the front page of the... The circulation of this report is strictly limited to members...

The motion by committee chairman Sir Anthony Kershaw... The Times report was carried by 159 votes to 48...

On Monday last (he continued)... The Times report was carried by 159 votes to 48...

It can happen (he continued)... The Times report was carried by 159 votes to 48...

Here we have not (he said)... The Times report was carried by 159 votes to 48...

Food price rise to be minimal

AGRICULTURE

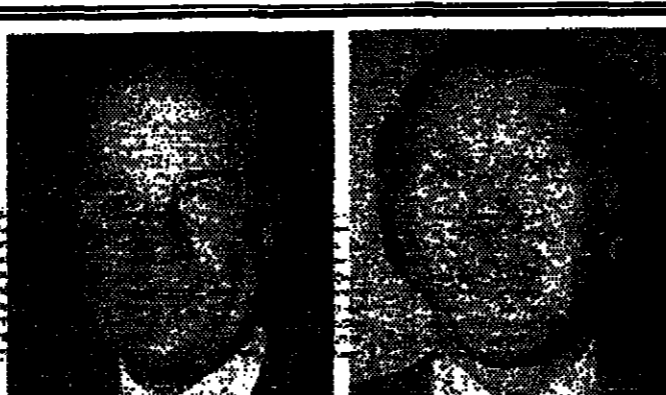
Food price rises in the United Kingdom would add one half of one per cent to the food price index...

Aid for pig producers outlined

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced that the Government will provide a grant of £20 million...

Delayed report 'critical' of Brixton police raids

The Home Office is to publish a report by the Police Complaints Board to Mr William Whitelaw...



Mr. John Silkin, Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs...

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No backing for Ruth Hall motion

A motion referring to remarks reportedly spoken by Miss Ruth Hall in the House...

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C) on a point of order said: During the last 24 hours my telephone in my office has been out of order...

Forestry sales allegation refuted

Pensions Bill

The Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, under which the uprating of pensions and other benefits will be calculated by the historic method...

Jobs not rates the main issue for many voters

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent. Funding and prime ministerial candidates say that the local elections on May 5 will be a test of national party standing...

Higher cereal exports

One of the most encouraging developments of recent years had been the way in which United Kingdom cereal producers had increased their exports to other countries...

Despite provocation Thatcher keeps her options open

GENERAL ELECTION

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that when she decided to "play the election" she would be announced in the usual way...

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C) suggested that there was nothing wrong in cutting and running, "providing one wins" and Mrs Thatcher replied, amid Conservative cheers...

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said that the Prime Minister's questions that the next unemployment figures would not be published until the day after the election...

Humanitarian visit to islands acceptable

The prime minister reaffirmed that the Government had nothing against the visit by Argentine relatives of the Falklands and that it was prepared to facilitate a totally humanitarian visit...

Police Bill to go through in usual way

The Prime Minister said that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill would continue in the usual way and she hoped to receive Royal Assent...

Animal cruelty law is to be updated

The Government intended to introduce legislation to amend and update the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 as soon as parliamentary time permitted...

Parliament today

Private members' Bills: Diseases of Fish Bill, remaining stages. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

KEY ELECTION AREAS

Table with columns: Constituency, Party, Candidates/politica, Local unemployment (March 1983), %

Despite provocation Thatcher keeps her options open

published on the Friday after the local elections. It is a rather curious choice of date because...

Mr Foot: Did the local elections not know the date of local elections which they selected the time for the announcement? If she examines the matter she will find that it is the case...

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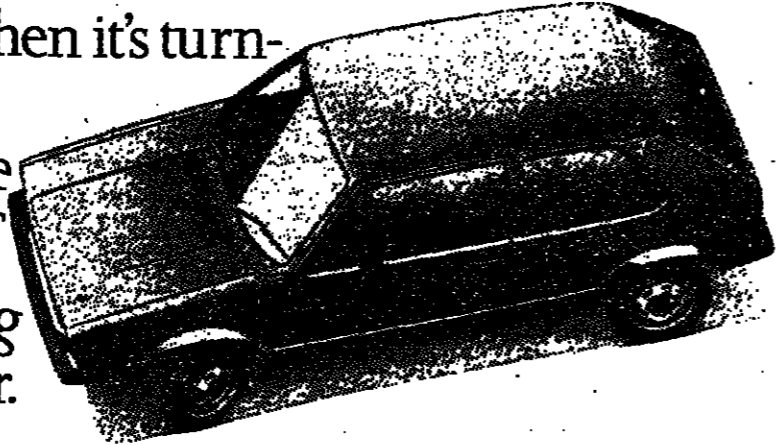
Table with columns: Constituency, Party, Candidates/politica, Local unemployment (March 1983), %

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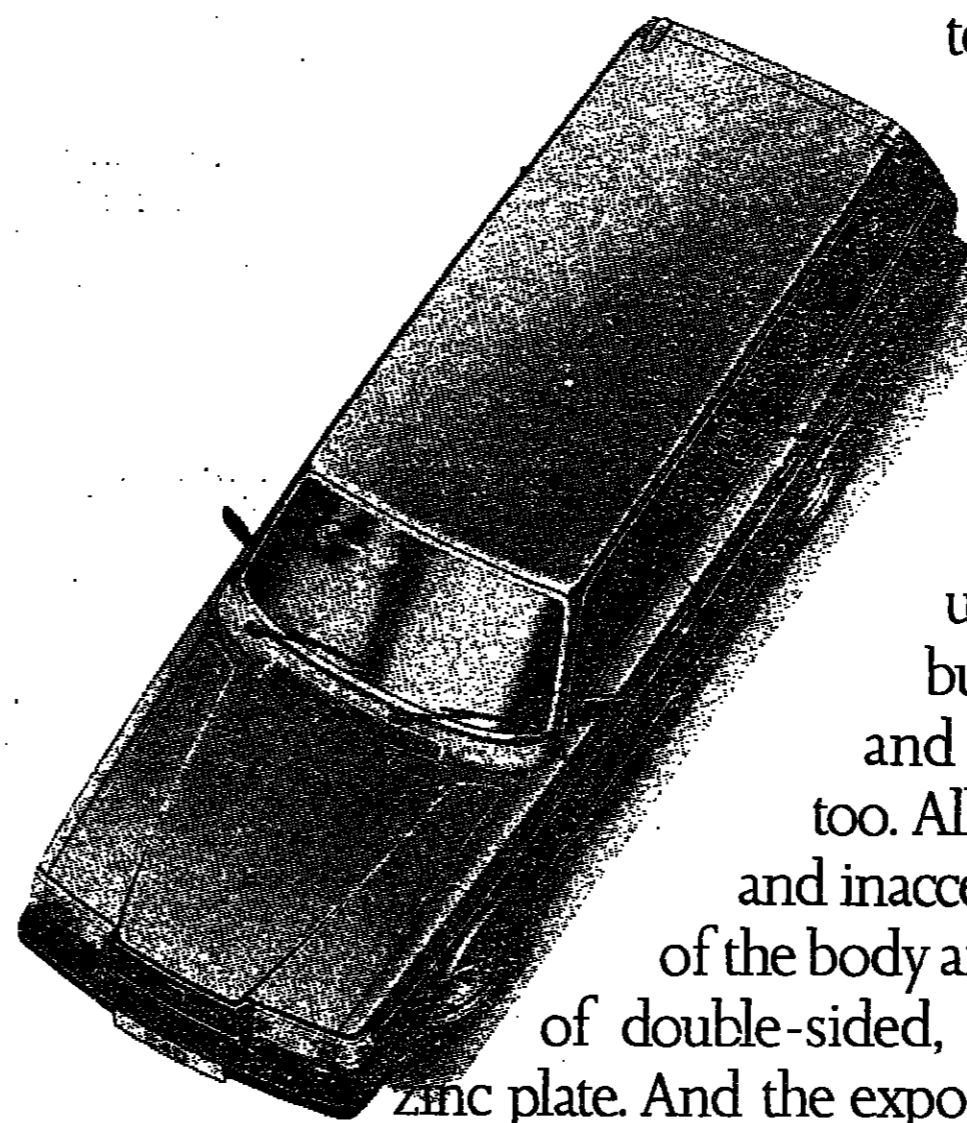
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One dissident held but Russia agrees to let another leave

The dissident writer Georgy Vladimov said yesterday that he had been told to report to the emigration office in Moscow next Tuesday to receive exit visas to West Germany for himself, his wife and his mother-in-law.

But on the same day, Mr Naum Meiman, aged 72, a dissident, was taken into custody by the KGB and questioned by the Moscow city prosecutor on alleged anti-Soviet activities.

The decision to allow Mr Vladimov to emigrate brings to an end a long struggle between the writer and the Soviet authorities. Mr Vladimov was a well-known Soviet author until he became head of the Moscow branch of Amnesty International, and wrote a number of works critical of Stalinism and Soviet repressions.

He is best known in the West for his short novel *Faithful Russian*, the allegorical tale of a

prison-camp guard dog who adapts to the way which followed Khrushchev's partial dismantling of Stalin's Gulag system.

Last year Mr Vladimov, who is 52, was told by the KGB to renounce his anti-Soviet activities and asked to name other dissidents. He refused, and wrote to Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader in January, reluctantly asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Vladimov told *The Times* that the "last" time he was formally invited to renounce for a year on modern Russian literature at Cologne university.

"Of course I understand that if they let me go I may not be going for one year but forever," Mr Vladimov said. He said he would not be surprised if he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship once he was in the West.

Emigration was a very serious and difficult step,

especially for a writer of 52 who now risks losing contact with his native soil, he said.

Mr Vladimov, who is in poor health and has already suffered one heart attack, said he would have preferred to leave Russia in the summer.

His case has been taken up by leading Western figures, including the West German writer Siegfried Lenz, and was the subject of talks between Herr Hans Jochen Vogel the West German Social Democratic leader and Mr Andropov in Moscow in January.

Mr Naum Meiman has been a leading human rights activist in Russia for many years, and was a founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group. The group, set up to monitor Soviet observance of the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki agreement, was dissolved last September after sustained KGB pressure on its leaders, including Dr

Andrei Sakharov, the physicist, and his wife Elena Bonner.

Mr Meiman has one less continued: to collect information on human rights abuses. The KGB searched his flat earlier this week and removed what it called "slandorous anti-soviet material" as well as his typewriter and a tape recorder.

Also active in the Jewish movement, Mr Meiman has been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for nearly 10 years.

● **Americans held:** Two men in a group of American visitors were held by police for two hours yesterday after making a public demand for an exit visa for young music teacher Boris Molchanov, who married an American woman in 1979, AFP reports.

The group released multi-coloured balloons, bearing the words "Release Boris", inside the Hotel Cosmos hall and distributed pamphlets



Trying again: Stancu Papisoi, the Romanian deported from Britain, applying for a British entry visa in Vienna yesterday.

Bases pact ratified by Spanish Parliament

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The Spanish Parliament has ratified by an overwhelming majority an agreement which allows the United States to continue using air and naval bases in Spain.

The powerful lower house, the Congress of Deputies, approved the agreement by 249 votes in favour, nine against, with seven abstentions. The only serious organized opposition to the proposal came from the Spanish Communist Party.

The text of the pact was the same as the one signed last July by the preceding Government, which was dominated by the Centre Democratic Union. But the addition of a protocol negotiated by the Socialist Government makes it clear that the agreement does not limit Spain's options with regard to its participation in Nato.

Without ratification of the pact, the US Air Force and Navy would have had one year to get out of Spain beginning next May 21.

The commitment, known as the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation, authorizes the United States to continue to operate from a big naval air base at Rota in the south-west, have air bases at Torrejon near Madrid, Moron, near Seville, and Zaragoza, as well as supply bases and communications installations in other parts of the country.

Drive stepped up to harass Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities appear to have intensified their campaign against the underground Solidarity movement in an attempt to stifle as many potential demonstrators as possible before the papal visit.

As underground activists prepare leaflets for the May Day rallies planned by Solidarity, police have moved in on several printing presses, rounding up many of the disbanded union's supporters.

The latest swoop came in Czeszochowa where the Pope is due to spend four nights during his June visit. Several thousand leaflets were confiscated, according to an official communiqué, 35 people were detained for questioning and at least eight have been formally arrested. More than nine cities are involved in the crackdown, and investigations are said to be particularly intensive in towns on the papal schedule including Katowice, Cracow and Poznan.

Some of these actions have involved arrests, in others, suspects were simply issued with warnings that if they took part in the May Day protests, arrest would follow.

This campaign is being accompanied by a propaganda drive against the underground leadership and Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, which is being accused of trying to sabotage the papal visit. The official commentaries never really make clear why such a cancellation would be in the interests of Solidarity. However, the tone leaves no doubt about the Government's response to Mr Walesa's offer to hold talks opening the way for national reconciliation.

The official view remains that Mr Walesa represents nobody but himself and is therefore not a negotiating partner, a view that is reinforced (from the government perspective) by Mr Walesa's openly declared contacts with the illegal underground Solidarity.

Mr Walesa is therefore clearly not optimistic.

At the same time, the Polish Government is stepping up pressure on cultural associations, many of whom provided intellectual support to the Solidarity movement. The debate about whether the writers and film makers' union can be reactivated continues and the authorities have now decided to suspend the artists' union. This is because the leadership of the union has refused to retract eight statements released over the past year critical of the status quo.

Meanwhile the World Jewish Congress, one of the most important Jewish organizations taking part in the official ceremonies marking the fortieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has said that it will withdraw from the formal events after "a week of provocation and manipulation".

Many Jews have been critical of the way that the anniversary is being staged - above all the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization - and some have also been critical of the way that Solidarity turned one unofficial ceremony into a political rally.

Farm price rift over green rates

From Ian Murray Luxembourg

EEC agriculture ministers meet here again next Wednesday in an attempt to agree Community farm prices for the year ahead. The price package is already nearly a month overdue for agreement, and failure next week might well make it impossible for a settlement before June.

From Britain's point of view the remaining argument is a technical one, which Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, will be able to watch rather snugly from the sidelines.

He has already been assured that the prices themselves will rise by only a modest 4.2 per cent overall, which puts an end to the need for him to continue to argue for price restraint.

But next week's meeting threatens to be particularly difficult precisely because the price settlement is so low.

This means that the countries who are members of the European Monetary System exchanges can only obtain increases in line with the value of their "green" exchange rates, which adjust prices in line with the relative strength of real exchange rates.

Press challenges De Lorean ban

From Christopher Thomas, New York

Associated Press and the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner will challenge the ban before an appeals judge next week. When imposing it, District Judge Robert Talang said merely that he was trying to ensure a fair trial for Mr De Lorean. The case is due to begin in the summer.

Protests about the ban have also been formally presented to the judge by NBC News, CBS News, and the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. The fear is that the ban will set a precedent for other criminal trials, which traditionally receive extensive pretrial publicity.

Associated Press protested that "there is nothing so special about this case or Mr De Lorean's status that would warrant affording him this unprecedented protection".

100 found murdered in a cave

From Geoffrey Matthews Bogota

The discovery of the remains of more than 100 peasants, apparently shot by drug racketeers, has caused horror and outrage in Colombia. The remains, estimated to be about six years old, have been found in a cave in an isolated region of the northern Cesar Department.

Señor Edgardo Pupo Governor of Cesar, said after visiting the cave that the massacre must have been "a real holocaust carried out with Nazi-style efficiency".

Cesar is one of the departments in Colombia's Atlantic-Caribbean region where racketeers have long been active in overseeing the cultivation of marijuana on a vast scale. Although over the last two years the region has ceased to be a centre of marijuana cultivation it remains the main point from which marijuana and cocaine are smuggled across the Caribbean to Florida by air or boat.

In recent years, the United States has estimated that Colombia has been the source of 80 per cent of both the marijuana and cocaine (processed in Colombia from coca paste brought in from Bolivia and Peru) consumed in North America. However, due to the increasing cultivation of marijuana in the United States the racketeers currently appear to be switching their priorities to cocaine production.

At the estimated time of the massacre the Cesar department would still have been enjoying its "marijuana bonanza". Like many other peasants in isolated regions of Colombia, the victims of the massacre are thought to have cultivated marijuana for the racketeers for better money than they could earn from more traditional crops like cotton, rice or corn.

However, their earnings would have represented a tiny fraction of actual profits and one theory is that the massacre was caused by rebellion over wages. Another is that the racketeers staged a crude land seizure.

Señor Pupo declared bitterly: "This is a terrible event for the department, Colombia and the world, but especially for us in a civilized and democratic country which unfortunately has for some years been in the hands of drug traffickers who impose the law of death."



Mr Walker: Able to watch snugly from sidelines.

Britain is not a full member of the EMS and is therefore not involved in this argument, which enables Mr Walker to take a detached view.

The country which stands to lose most from the present proposals from the Commission, which are to be discussed again next Wednesday, is West Germany. The strength of the Deutschmark is such that the current rate of the "green mark" has been pushed up to the point where it makes other countries very jealous.

France is particularly vexed because the difference between the green mark and the green franc means French farmers are paid up to a fifth less than their West German counterparts for exporting the same kind of product.

The commission is therefore trying to make West Germany accept a reduction in this weighted advantage, but this in turn means that West Germany would have to accept that its farmers received no increase at all for key products.

Mr Walker showed early today that he was very understanding of the West German position.

Turkey seeks Western aid against Armenians

Ankara (NYT) - Turkey has called on Western governments for help in preventing attacks on Turkish diplomats by radical Armenian groups.

It fears such attacks might increase as the anniversary approaches of mass arrests and deportations of Armenians from Istanbul on April 24, 1915. Under the Ottomans, most Armenians were deported to Syrian desert areas and hundreds of thousands died.

The Armenian patriarch of Istanbul has appealed to Armenians around the world to fight against Armenian extremists who have killed 26 Turkish diplomats in the past decade.

At a meeting of Nato defence ministers last month, Mr Haluk Bayulken of Turkey asked for cooperation against Armenian attacks.

In addition, Mr Iker Turkmen, the Foreign Minister, visited Beirut, believed to be the main base for Armenian activists. He flew there on March 17, six days after Mr Galip Balkar, Turkey's ambassador in Belgrade, died of gunshot wounds.

In Lebanon Mr Turkmen met President Amin Gemayel and Mr Ghazi al-Wazzan, the Prime Minister, and was said to have asked for help. He was reported to have pointed out that the two gunmen who shot the envoy in Belgrade travelled there on Lebanese passports.

Turkish officials have said they know little about the size, leadership and financing of the Armenian groups.

There appear to be two main groups. One is the Justice Commandos, described as pro-Western. The other is the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, said to be pro-communist. Its leader is thought to have left Beirut for a base in Cyprus, Greece or France, according to some officials, but its members are said to remain in Lebanon.

Officials here said they believed the financing came essentially from Armenian businessmen, either out of conviction or through extortion.

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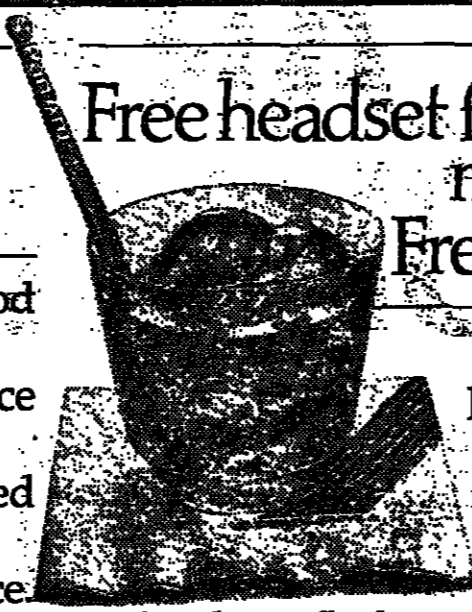


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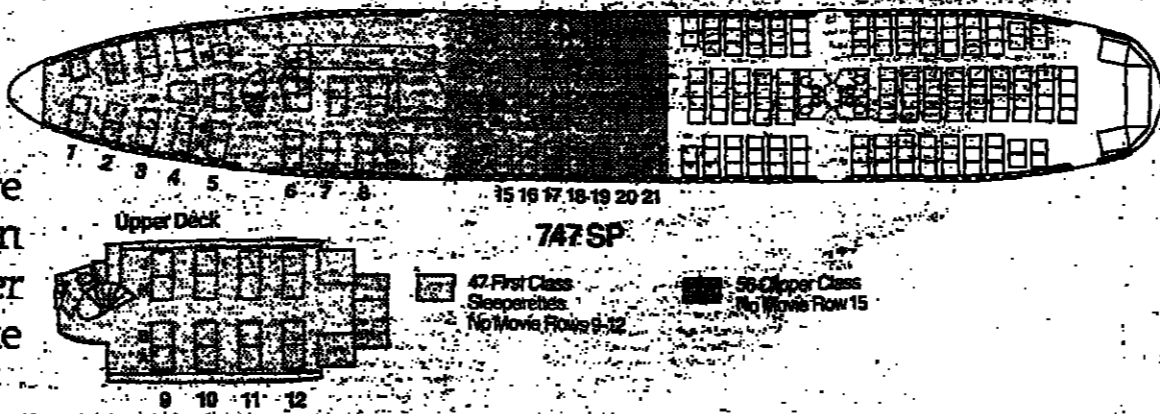
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All goes wrong on first sour day of tour for the royal couple

From Granis Forbes, PA. Court Correspondent, Wellington

A series of rows overshadowed the tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales in New Zealand yesterday as photographers downed cameras, a political agitator protested in court, some MPs felt snubbed because they had not received a special invitation, and a champagne toast went sour.

But under an overcast sky, from which came regular torrents of rain, the royal couple dutifully smiled throughout. It was the first unhappy day after five weeks on tour.

The four-week visit to Australia went without a hitch and the representatives of the British press were surprised on Sunday to be greeted in Auckland with the news that the visit to New Zealand had been organised with only the local media in mind.

After days of pleading and argument, matters came to a head in Waiararua, when British journalists, who had faithfully followed the tour and made the Princess the star of hundreds of front pages on her first foreign visit, staged a boycott.

The final straw came when Mr Dick Butler, the media liaison officer in New Zealand, decided to prevent photographers from using a press lorry during a royal walkabout.

When British cameramen protested, he called the police and told security officers he was frightened the British contingent would smash up the lorry.

Reporters, who have been prevented from seeing the Prince and Princess during walkabouts by a line of white-helmeted police officers, agreed to join the protest and the walkabout through the city centre went unobserved by the British media.

It was agreed that the boycott would continue until matters were resolved with New Zealand Government officials.

After visiting a small Maori skill centre, the Prince and Princess went on to lunch with Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister.

Emotions were also running high at Wellington's District Court, where a tattooed Maori who bared his bottom to the Prince and Princess on Wednesday appeared before magistrates.

There was uproar when Mr Te Ekaipa Mihinui and another protester, Mr Doree Prince, refused to enter the dock. Mr Mihinui, aged 41, described as a political agitator, denied a charge of disorderly behaviour. He said he would have pleaded guilty if the charge

had been of showing contempt for the Royal Family.

He was remanded to appear in court in June.

Some MPs were also unhappy last night at being excluded from a ball at Government House at which the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward were guests of honour.

At the ball, a champagne toast to the Queen's fifty-first birthday went sour when both the Prince and the Princess pushed their glasses aside after a token sip.

Disaster struck when Sir David Beattie, the Governor-General asked the 600 guests at the function to raise their glasses in a loyal toast. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than he realised that every glass of wine had been removed by diligent waitresses.

After an awkward pause the royal couple and those at the top table were given a small measure of Spanish champagne.

Both the Prince and Princess, after taking one sip from the bubbly, toyed with their glasses in embarrassment. As a waitress whisked the offending drinks away, Prince Charles tactfully remarked: "What a waste of champagne."



The Prince and Princess of Wales dancing at the Wellington ball last night. Space was at a premium and the royal couple were stranded at the edge of the floor.

Carrington derides 'megaphone diplomacy' with the Russians

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington called on the West last night to start a new dialogue with the Soviet Union, as opposed to a silent wall of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy".

The former Foreign Secretary also urged Europe to start playing a bigger defence role, but as a complement not an alternative to the Atlantic alliance.

He told the International Institute for Strategic Studies that he was not preaching a return to the détente policies of the 1970s. But we should be ready to do business with the Russians when it benefited both sides and when Moscow made it possible.

"Indiscriminate sanctions against the Soviet Union are neither feasible nor desirable. If they did not work against Mr Smith in Rhodesia, they are unlikely to bring down the Soviet empire," he said, in the annual Alastair Buchan memorial lecture.

It should not be our aim anyway to give them the excuse for strengthening their economic grip on Eastern Europe or repressing the aspirations of their own people.

Lord Carrington, who is now chairman of General Electric, said that the West had squandered its advantages in the past by what he called "competitive détente", offering semi-strategic exports at absurdly low interest rates in an undignified scramble for Eastern markets.

Now countries had over reacted by threatening to sever valuable trade links.

"I doubt if the Russians will be very impressed by these threats while America continues to supply them with bread and Europe with butter, and while the Poles go short of both."

In his most comprehensive review of international affairs since leaving the Foreign Office a year ago, Lord Carrington said we were witnessing the slow decline of the Soviet empire, but should beware of trying to bring down the crumbling edifice with one last shove.

"Our policy in Eastern Europe as elsewhere must be to encourage reform rather than

revolution. Sporadic convulsions ruthlessly put down by the Russians and their clients cannot be in the interests of these peoples themselves.

The Russians must learn and we must do what we can to teach them over the years that their security interests are not best served by an endless cycle of repression, but by giving the people of Eastern Europe a voice in their own destiny."

In an analysis of how Europe could pull its weight more effectively within Nato, he favoured a better division of labour between the member states, with Britain concentrating her own contribution through the Royal Navy.

The British, he said, with European and American support, had just sailed 8,000 miles to protect a handful of their kith and kin on a remote island. Could anyone doubt that we would fight to protect 55 million people at home?

There was now a little less talk about neutralism in Western Europe.

Leading article, page 13

French nuclear test causes outrage

Wellington (AFP) New Zealand and Australia yesterday condemned France's latest underground nuclear test explosion in the South Pacific, with the former saying that it would revive "feelings of outrage" in the region.

In Canberra, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, expressed deep disappointment

that France had gone ahead with the tests despite the strong opposition his Government had conveyed earlier this month. He expected to discuss the matter in Paris next month.

There was no immediate official reaction to the French explosion elsewhere in Asia, but a Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated the coun-

try's general opposition to nuclear testing in the Pacific.

New Zealand scientists yesterday confirmed that France had exploded a 50-kiloton-yield nuclear bomb on Wednesday at its underground Mururoa test site. It is believed to be the first French nuclear test since a 70-kiloton explosion last July.

Soviet drive against Afghan insurgents

Delhi (NYT) - A Western diplomat here has said that a big Soviet-led offensive was under way in north-west Afghanistan against insurgent positions. Heavy casualties were reported in the fighting, which was said to be continuing on the outskirts of Herat, near the Iranian border.

The informant quoted a diplomatic report from Kabul as saying that Soviet and Afghan troops has opened the assault after making heavy air attacks on areas around Herat suspected of sheltering Muslim guerrillas opposed to the Babrak Karmal regime.

The drive, which apparently began some time this month, is reported to have come in the wake of big insurgent attacks on Soviet and Afghan forces. The offensive, came amid preparations in Kabul for observances of the fourth anniversary of the military coup of April 27, 1978, which placed the first of three pro-Soviet Marxist governments in power in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting was also reported this month between Soviet troops and insurgents around the cities of Kandahar, Ghazni and Mazar-i-Sharif near the Afghan-Soviet frontier.

An insurgent success was reported from the northern Panjshir Valley, through which the main highway connecting

Kabul with the Soviet Union runs. There three rival Afghan insurgent factions were reported to have joined forces for an ambush on April 1 of a large Soviet-Afghan military convoy.

Some Russian soldiers were reported to have been killed.

The three rebel groups involved in what the diplomat said was a rage display of unity were identified as the Hezb-i-Islami, the Jamat-i-Islami and the Harakat-i-Islam. The diplomat said Mr Ahmed Ihsoud, the guerrilla leader in the valley, did not participate.

On April guerrillas were reported to have overrun a military post in southern Kabul, killing or capturing all the troops. The insurgent were said to have been aided by an Afghan soldier at the post.

The Diplomatic report added that Kabul had been relatively quiet recently. On April 3, however, a noisy and violent demonstration erupted in the centre of the capital after a Soviet soldier shot and killed a young Afghan student during a brief quarrel.

Hundreds of Kabul residents were said to have shouted anti-Soviet slogans and hurled rocks at the Russian soldier and his vehicle after the shooting. Order was restored when Afghan troops arrived, disarmed the Russian and took him away.

AUSTIN ROVER



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Bonn given border death details

From Michael Binyon Bonn

An East-West German transit commission meeting in East Berlin yesterday discussed in detail the death of a West German traveller in East Germany as the reverberations of the affair continued to echo through political circles here.

The East Germans delivered a detailed explanation of how Herr Rudolf Burkert met his death, and this has been passed on to Bonn. East Germany has meanwhile invited a West German forensic expert to make an on-the-spot investigation and talk to witnesses and to the interrogating officers.

The West Germans complained to the commission of the increasing harassment of travellers to West Berlin.

Newspapers gave a warning yesterday that people who gave even chocolate or cigarettes to East Germans in route could face fines of up to 700 marks (£180). They said border guards were increasingly resorting to spot checks on the air pressure in spare tyres and imposing instant fines in cases of infringement of the regulations.

Meanwhile the Social Democratic opposition has sharply attacked Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union, for his claim that Herr Burkert was murdered.

The SPD said he was trying to force the Government of change its policies towards East Germany, and said ideology was more important to him than a patient striving for the alleviation of human conditions in East Germany.

Survivors tell of yacht attack

Hongkong (Reuter) - Four survivors of the attack on a West German yacht in the South China Sea had to bury a friend at sea when he died only a day before they were rescued after nine days adrift, the skipper said yesterday.

Herr Peter Marx described how his 51ft yacht Sidharta was hit and set ablaze by artillery fire as it approached Vietnamese-occupied Amboyna Can Island, one of the remote, disputed Spratly Group, on Easter Sunday.

He said the attackers, whom he would not identify, had fired no warning shots, were flying no flag and "obviously did not want any witnesses".

"You can work out for yourself who they were," he said in a radio-telephone interview from the cargo ship which picked up the survivors from a small dinghy on Tuesday in the busy sea lanes between Singapore and Hongkong.

Herr Diethelm Müller was killed during the attack but Herr Gero Baad survived until Monday, though badly hurt.

"I made a thorough check that he was no longer alive," Herr Marx said. "We said a prayer. Then we had to push him over the side. It was very sad." Next day they were spotted.

● BONN: the Bonn Government yesterday condemned the shelling of the Sidharta and a Foreign Ministry statement said Bonn would make representations to the country responsible as soon as it was absolutely clear who had fired on the yacht.

Hanoi condemns Peking

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam accused China yesterday of another cross-border operation and renewed shelling attacks. A communique carried by the official Vietnam news agency said that Chinese gunners had fired 50 mortar rounds on a village in Cao Bang province, killing two people and wounding four others.

It said that a group of between eight and 10 Chinese

soldiers had entered the north-west Vietnamese province of Hoang Lien Son and opened fire on the population, wounding a certain number of people.

The same day, the communique said, dozens of Chinese shells fell on a part of Cao Bang and the neighboring province of Ha Tuyen. It did not indicate what the casualties were.

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SPECTRUM

Seventy-four years ago, Jewish idealists built the first kibbutz. Today it is a thriving community, but are the ideals still relevant?

Fading blooms of the desert

By Christopher Walker

Tiberias, Israel. If the handful of hardy Jewish pioneers who came here from the freezing corners of Russia and Poland 74 years ago to found Degania, the first ever kibbutz, were able to return to inspect their idealistic creation on what were once the Malaria-infested shores of Lake Kinneret it is doubtful that they would recognize it - or approve of what it has become.

As if to symbolize the dramatic transformation which has overtaken the whole of the kibbutz movement, the first communally-owned cattle shed built in the searing heat 650 feet below sea level has recently been converted into an air-conditioned luxury cinema. Close by, the imposing water tower that once provided a vital lifeline is now empty, its contents replaced by a computer terminal controlling the advanced irrigation system of the 100-acre complex of industry and agriculture which boasts an annual turnover of \$10m a year.

The 600 members - like those of the movement as a whole, more than 90 per cent of them are Ashkenazis, or Israelis of European descent - have access to their own water skis and sailing boats, car pool, floodlit tennis courts, a newly-opened Olympic size swimming pool, riding stables and an in-house video system installed because it proved the only way of maintaining the kibbutz tradition of a weekly general meeting in the face of competition from Israel TV's most popular sports programme. This is now recorded so that the kibbutzniks can watch it later, having attended the forum which still takes all decisions communally, either by show of hands or secret ballot.

Instead of the original system of a battered cash box and an accompany-

ing "honesty book" which provided Degania residents with their only access to ready cash, all members have cheque books and an overall budget which they are free to spend as they choose - dangerously close, some argue, to the dreaded concept of a wage. Most also prefer to eat their evening meals at home in their kitchenettes - less humble than those to be found in many Israeli homes - rather than trek to the communal dining hall. But all still have to do their regular turn of waiting on their fellows.

"Like every other institution in Israel, we have had to adapt to circumstances, to change in order to survive, and we think that so far we have succeeded", explains Yoya Shapira, the sprightly 63-year-old daughter of Joseph Baratz, one of Degania's nine original founders. On the wall of her modest house, the closest to the shimmering lake, the photo of her mother's formidable hands - she was the kibbutz milkmaid for more than 30 years - contrasts with the gleaming colour television set now provided free to all Degania families and the telephone installed in each of their houses.

"Of course people from outside, Israelis as well as foreigners, find it hard to reconcile these facilities with their image of a socialist community", explains Ron Shapira, Yoya's thoughtful son, who lives with his wife in a house about 300 yards from his parents. He is one of only 50 per cent of kibbutz-born children who now opt to stay living in the system - which, he readily admits, many of his fellow countrymen tend to see as anachronistic and damagingly elitist. "They tend to regard us as living in a country club, but for those who belong, these possessions are nothing more than a



Top: The first stone house in Kibbutz Degania stands as a symbol of idealism to the kibbutzniks of today. Above left: The way it was - an isolated settlement on the banks of the Jordan. Above right: The pioneers who founded Degania.

family would buy itself as it got richer."

Another kibbutznik from a younger and smaller community puts the matter more bluntly: "When you are still poor like we are, it is much easier to be ideologically pure."

There are now 276 kibbutzim inside Israel and the occupied territories, accounting for a total membership of 120,000 people, or roughly 3.6 per cent of the population. Just as no kibbutz can be described as representative of the whole, so the type of society to be found inside kibbutzim bears little resemblance to Israel outside, where nearly 60 per cent of the population are Sephardic or Oriental Jews.

Originally born of a peculiarly Jewish fusion of social and national ideals associated with the type of pioneer who gave truth to the age-old cliché of "making the desert bloom", the kibbutz has recently become the target of attack from right-wingers who now make up the majority of Israeli voters. One observer likened the

movement to "a burnt-out rocket" which had achieved its original aim and was no longer relevant. When the Archbishop of York spent a holiday on a Jordan valley kibbutz, the political editor of the *Jerusalem Post* described it acidly as the Israeli equivalent of a visit to an English stately home.

In the early 1970s, a commentator compared the role of the kibbutz in Israeli life with Eton's in the British Conservative Party because of the high proportion of kibbutzniks filling top cabinet posts. But since the election of the first right-wing Israeli Government in 1977, the continued close association of the movement with the opposition Labour Party has contributed to its increasing isolation from political influence. It is estimated that only 2 per cent of kibbutz voters supported Menachem Begin in the 1981 election.

During that violent campaign, the Prime Minister reinforced the prejudice about the privileged life of kibbutzniks by portraying them as

"millionaires" luxuriating in their swimming pools while the townspeople had suffered not so "benign neglect" under Labour rule. A much cruder message was contained in a notorious election pamphlet depicting kibbutzim as a many-headed monster devouring the population of Israel's poor development towns.

The majority of kibbutzniks, who because of their high standard of education tend to be among the most articulate and cultured of Israelis, are acutely conscious of the problem, which is related to one of the fundamental changes in the movement - the switch from agriculture to industry. The original tenet forbidding the employment of outside labour has long been discarded, although one of the two main kibbutz groups is now attempting to rectify matters by imposing financial sanctions on member communes that do not move away from hiring outsiders. "It is hard for us to be socialist allies of poor Israelis and their employers at the

same time", explains David Twersky, ex-editor of the Kibbutz magazine *Shdemot*.

The switch to industry is illustrated by the statistics. In 1950 there were only 50 factories throughout the whole movement; by 1982 this had reached 325, often grouped on a regional basis with an enviable productivity record. In all, they employed 50 per cent of their labour from outside, a proportion that seriously concerns those who fear the ideological cement of the movement is gradually being eroded.

Just as immediately after the Second World War, kibbutz elders fretted about whether their experimental institution would survive the import of the radio sets and coffee pots being brought back from Europe by returning soldiers, there is now concern about whether the uniquely Israeli version of communal Utopia can survive the television, the family dining table and the growing pressure from parents to have their children sleeping at home.

Because of demands from second and third generation kibbutzniks who have now become parents (men and women tend to marry inside the movement, but not inside their own kibbutz, where a surrogate sibling relationship predominates), more and more kibbutzim are voting to keep their children at home overnight.

"It was a very traumatic decision, but most parents agree it was a right one", explains Mrs Karen Lior, the mother of two children whose kibbutz near Tel Aviv made the move last year after months of heated arguments. "When they were sleeping centrally, the system always broke down when the kids played up, because in the end the parents had to be called to handle them."

Kibbutzniks frequently refer to their way of life as a repository of many of the old-fashioned virtues in a fast changing urban society. "We are one of the few places in 1983 where the extended as well as the nuclear family is thriving", argues Twersky, who at the age of 33 is regarded as one of the up and coming leaders of the kibbutz movement.

With singles weekends now centrally organized for lonely members, beauty salons an accepted feature of many kibbutzim and the atmosphere more often than not that of a merciful, rural retreat from the asphalt jungle of Israel's urban sprawl, the reality of kibbutz living is now radically altered from the vision of its founding fathers.

By a bitter irony for a Marxist-socialist movement which started out rejecting the religious norms of traditional Jewish life in the European ghettos, the pioneering mantle once carried by the kibbutz is now being claimed by Gush Emunim (The Block of the Faithful), the extreme religious-nationalist movement which under the Begin Government has spearheaded the wave of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Much as western statesmen anxious for Middle East peace may regret it, there now seems little chance of the clock being turned back. In present day Israel the bearded, heavily armed zealots of the Gush have become the pace-setters while the more moderate kibbutz movement appears to be moving contentedly into middle age.

Boston When Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton last came to Boston almost 20 years ago, they flew into a private airfield on wings of scandal, newly married after a romance that broke both their previous marriages, and captured the attention of the world. Burton was coming to play Hamlet before taking it to New York, and a cast member recalls the crowd of 3,000 that broke on to the landing field and chased the Burtons in their plane into a hangar.

Pickets in the lobby of the stately Copley Plaza Hotel held placards emblazoned "Shame" and in the lobby of another of the city's main hotels the couple was mobbed by a crowd of 1,000 people, several of whom tore some of Miss Taylor's thick hair from her head, wrenched her neck and arched it like this before. It is outrageous", Burton fumed.

That was 1964. They were in their thirties then, now, in their battered, quieter middle age, amid the avid curiosity which has replaced the hysteria, Miss Taylor and Burton have returned to Boston to do a play, the beginning of a 32-week run through New York, Washington and Los Angeles. New York previews begin on April 28, and the official opening at the Lunt Fontanne is on May 8.

Throughout the long turbulence of their separate and joint careers, their joint and separate marriages, they have never starred in a play together. But they had a friend, Noel Coward, who, more than 50 years ago, before he knew them - before Miss Taylor was even born - wrote a comedy called *Private Lives*. It is about a couple, a maddening, funny, magnetic pair, who, married and divorced, rediscover each other years later. Remarried to other people, they are each on the first night of a European honeymoon - in adjacent suites of the same hotel.

Burton and Taylor are together again, but only on stage. A public playback of private lives

They agreeably went away and returned later to ask if, perhaps, the kitchen could still do eggs. It did.

At the Copley Plaza, where Miss Taylor and her entourage have 20 rooms, the atmosphere has been equally quiet. Miss Taylor has been using a side door to come and go, virtually unrecognizable.

Rehearsals have been closed to the press. The actors had only three weeks to rehearse, and faced with what Zev Bufman, the producer, said



Star-crossed lovers: Burton and Taylor kiss for a curtain call after playing *Private Lives*

grabbing all 1,750 seats in the Shubert Theater for all 17 performances. New York sales have also been tremendous.

Producer Bufman denies the rumour that Miss Taylor and Burton are getting \$78,000 a week each for the production. But, he says, they are getting more money than a Broadway actor or actress has ever received in a play-and when the play closes in Los Angeles, he says, the cast will tape *Private Lives* for showing on Home Box Office cable, in a deal negotiated for close to \$3m. Additionally, the tape will be used as a film in cinemas in Europe and elsewhere.

"The treasury for all this coin is the Elizabeth Theater Group, a production company formed by Bufman and the 51-year-old, slimmed down Miss Taylor. Bufman produced *The Little Foxes* two years ago, in which Miss Taylor made her Broadway debut.

Burton, who has spoken candidly of his battles with alcoholism - he freely admits that he has days or weeks when he goes on a binge, but not when he works, Bufman says - appears dry but, if not chasing Miss Taylor, slowly around a table or simply rising from a couch, carries himself as carefully as a waiter would glasses on a flimsy tray.

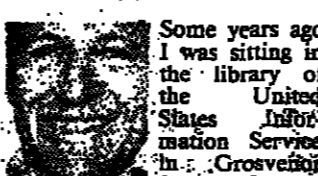
Aged 57, he underwent surgery on the vertebrae in his neck, a procedure called a cervical laminectomy, in April 1981, after being forced to drop out of *Camelot* in California. He resumed acting in January 1982, but was still wearing a neck brace a month ago when he began rehearsals for *Private Lives*. He is said to have since cast it off, and indeed he seemed a bit more vigorous in Wednesday night's performance than he did on Tuesday - the result, perhaps, of chasing Miss Taylor about the stage six days a week.

Like old times, the audience assumes "You know," said Betty Hourihan, the wife of a Boston lawyer, after watching Burton pursue Miss Taylor round a table, "you think you're watching their real lives."

Or, as Burton whispered to Miss Taylor after a crowd swept away the rest of their party and pressed in on the two of them at the couple's one appearance at a public benefit last week: "Here we go again."

Dudley Cleminson © New York Times, 1983

The hidden depths of clam chowder



MOREOVER... Myles Kington

Some years ago I was sitting in the library of the United States Information Service in Grosvenor Square. I must have been there for a purpose - perhaps the end of the visa queue was in there that day - but I have no recollection of what it was. All I can remember is that the phone suddenly rang in the calm of the library and an efficient American librarian went to answer it.

"Hello," she said. There was a pause. Then she said, "Hold on, I'll look it up for you." She put the phone down and turned to a colleague. "Jesus Christ," she said bitterly. "Can you imagine a guy ringing up to find out what the state flower of Georgia is? Was it for this I went to college?"

"Well, yes, I can imagine someone ringing up to find out that sort of useless information. It's the only sort that ever sticks with me. I am a compulsive reader of small, useless instructions, lists of ingredients on boxes, of credits at the end of films. Who is Oris Zeffand and why is he Caffre? What is disodium inosinate, and how does it improve clam powder? These are the kinds of question I want to ask. I am not sure I want to know the answers, but I very much want to ask the questions.

It is for this reason that I have hanging over my desk a small dossier of clippings from here and there, which I have left till they should mature into a small piece for *The Times*, a piece full of unanswered questions and, I hope, a sort of plaintive poetry. Poetry? Certainly. If a list of anything goes on long enough, as Beachcomber proved with the Hunsfordshire cabmen, it acquires a strange lyrical quality.

Take the clam chowder: for instance, it contains, or did when I ripped the label off the tin, the following ingredients: water, potatoes, carrots, tomato paste, clams and clam juice, partially hydrogenated vegetable oil (soybean and/or cottonseed), modified food starch, sweet red peppers, celery, salt, dehydrated onions, hydrolyzed vegetable protein,

natural flavour, dextrose, onion powder, garlic powder, monosodium glutamate (a flavour enhancer), sugar, dehydrated parsley, yeast, torula yeast, artificial colours, cellulose gum, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, citric acid, malic acid, spices, disodium inosinate and disodium guanylate (flavour enhancers).

More than 30 participants in one small can of soup. There is something rather grand about that, or at least there is after the fifteenth item. Occasionally, it is one special item that sticks out. I have here an advert for the Hotel Prince de Galles, Paris, and their offerings at brunch: "Danish pastries, smoked sturgeon, scrambled eggs à la Kiwi, crab beignets, Yorkshire sausages" - all very nice, but then suddenly: "Shredded wheat à la Surrey". A la Surrey? Can anyone down there help me?

More poetry of a kind turns up on a wrapper from a Jamaica ugli fruit.

"Ugli is best when chilled. A couple of hours in your refrigerator before serving will bring its texture and flavour to perfection. Cut the ugli in half with a serrated or sharp knife. Sprinkle lightly with sugar. Leave it for two or three minutes to start the juice flowing freely. Now the flavour changes from the wonderful to the fabulous. Eat your ugli with a pointed spoon. The few seeds are dropped into the convenient centre hole.

For out-and-out poetry I turn to the packet once containing Weleda salt toothpaste ("It contains no detergent and is therefore non-foaming") and merely transcribe their ingredients: "Sea salt, extracts of krameria, myrrh, and horsechestnut, blackthorn fruit juice, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphate, sodium silicate, aesculin, methyl cellulose (thickener), silica, vegetable glycerine, essential oils of lavender, clove, geranium, sage, eucalyptus, aniseed and peppermint, menthol, homeopathic potency of arum lily ash."

remember what the state flower of Georgia is but I can tell you the state flower of Pennsylvania: the mountain laurel. I owe this information to Robert Engel, a lawyer from Pittsburgh who writes to me occasionally, under the impression that I am thirsting for information about Pittsburgh. Americans are so thorough that even his writing paper contains ingredients - or rather, it lists the 47 lawyers in his law firm. They seem to improve in flavour towards the end; the last 13 reads as follows: Charly J Imbrie, Vasilis C Katsafanas, Harry F Kiodowski Jr, Stanley J Lehman, Lawrence P Lutz, Jeffery B Markel, Alison G Poccia, Ronald J Ricci, Dean F Richardson, Phillip M Sprinkle III, Stephen C Veltri, Gary Walk and Sidney Zonn.

I do not know about you, but I like Phillip M Sprinkle III best. One of the more recent pamphlets I have received from Mr Engel is entitled *Significant Incidents in the History of Pittsburgh*. As there are only

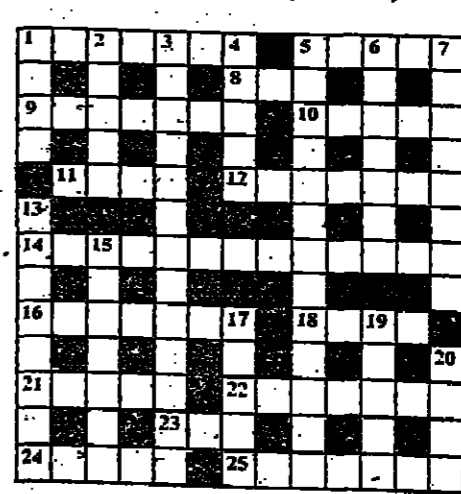
eleven of these, including a fire and the opening of Pittsburgh's first cinema, I will not go into them on this occasion, but I am held transfixed by the state information on Pennsylvania. The state dog is the Great Dane. The state tree is the hemlock. The state animal is the white tail deer. The state bird (are you getting into the spirit of this?) is the ruffed grouse. But, and this is where a note of melancholy creeps in, the final entry reads: "State song - there is no official song".

No song for Pennsylvania? What then do they sing when they get together leading their great dances, wearing their mountain laurels and wave their state flags (state colours are blue and gold)? I do not know. I am not sure I want to know. But there is a hint at the end of the pamphlet for additional information on Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania, they say, "consult *The Encyclopedia Britannica*" (Volume IV).

Is this the only work written on Pennsylvania? Will it tell why they have no song? Or, indeed, why they cannot even spell *Britannica* correctly? I think we should not be told.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 44)

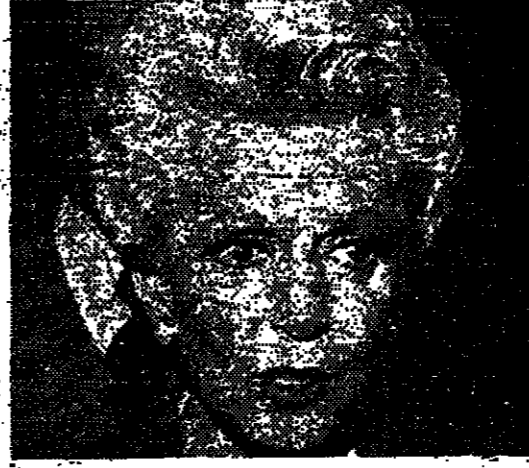
- ACROSS: 1 Crustaceans (7), 5 Mother (5), 8 Definite article (3), 9 Part down (7), 10 Deceitful plan (5), 11 Mid leg (4), 12 Insert (3,4), 14 From that time on (6,7), 16 Fragrant scent (7), 18 As well (4), 21 Scottish pilot (5), 22 Small guitar (7), 23 Solt (5), 24 Wary (5), 25 Temporary possession (7).



- DOWN: 1 Stitched (4), 2 Preval (3), 3 Homeland (6,7), 4 Unduly high (5), 5 European sea (13), 6 Virgin Mary (7), 7 Throat fissure (8), 13 Not usual (8).

SOLUTION TO No 43 ACROSS: 1 Shrick 5 Lessen 8 Era 9 Advent 10 Banker 11 Beta 12 Helmsman 13 Instep 15 Safety 17 Aubreia 20 Rake 22 Thwart 23 Deacon 24 Awi 25 Syphon 26 Emerge DOWN: 2 Hedge 3 Inexact 4 Keelcup 5 Label 6 Sinus 7 Elegant (Solution to No 44 on Monday) The dictionary recommended is the New Collins Concise

The many lives of Lana Turner



Changing faces of a screen goddess

The changing face of Lana Turner during her 45-year Hollywood reign. Left, with her mother and daughter, Cheryl; above, as she is today and, right, in her pin-up days.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Life-saving screen tests

Cancer of the breast and of the ovary together account for more than 16,000 deaths in British women every year. The figures would be dramatically reduced if diagnoses were made earlier.

Screening breasts with soft tissue X-ray, mammography, enables radiologists to find the tumour when it is still so small that it is impossible to feel with the hand. At this stage a patient's chances of complete recovery are good.

Professor Stuart Campbell, who screens patients with ultrasound at King's College Hospital, hopes to be able to recognize such small changes in the size and shape of the ovary that cancer may be diagnosed at a stage when treatment will be able to change the present 75 per cent death rate to 90 per cent cure rate.

Further advances in screening are announced this week by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Dr Richard Bulbrook and his team in cooperation with Mr John Hayward from Guy's Hospital, have for the past 20 years been analysing the blood and urine of 13,000 Guernsey women.

Significant abnormalities have been detected in the hormone levels in the urine of women who later developed breast cancer. For 10 years before a cancer can be detected the urine of women at greatest risk contains less than usual amounts of androgen steroid metabolites. Post-menopausal women who have higher than usual blood levels of prolactin, and whose patterns in women who are at risk of cancer of the ovaries are also found to be abnormal.

Not only will these biochemical findings be particularly useful in that they extend and complement the radiological means of early diagnosis which already exist; but the Imperial Cancer Research workers hope that it may be possible to find means of changing the hormonal balance in a patient so that these particular cancers become less common.

There is evidence that taking the Pill, which is one way of changing the hormone balance, does achieve this.

An eternal race

This year is the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the death of William Thackeray and the intellectual end of London clubland is honouring his memory; the Reform has already had a dinner to pay its respects, the Athenaeum is holding a reception in July. The irony is that if the great man had been in a position to attend in body rather than in spirit, the wine drunk would certainly have exacerbated the distress he suffered from a post gonococcal urethral stricture. Appropriately, in this year gonorrhoea is again in the news.

Effective treatment of gonorrhoea became possible only with the introduction of sulphonamides in the 1930s; before then patients were subjected to bladder and urethral wash-outs with powerful antiseptic solutions, procedures euphemistically known as deep irrigation. After this treatment about 5 per cent of the sufferers developed, as did Thackeray, varying degrees of urinary tract obstruction, probably more likely to have been due to the use of the instruments than the disease itself. Since the 1930s there has been a recurring story of an apparently miracle drug being found to treat gonorrhoea, only for the bacteria to become resistant to it.

The value of sulphonamides as a treatment was rendered useless by the way in which the Germans made it readily available, without supervision, to their troops in Italy. Penicillin, despite being very scarce, superseded sulphonamides in the British Army on the express orders of General Montgomery, but this, in its turn has been beaten by some of the strains of the gonococcal bacteria bred during and after the Vietnam war producing an enzyme which destroys penicillin. Fortunately, two comparatively new antibiotics, cefotaxime and cefotaxin are available, but if the race between gonorrhoea and science continues, sooner or later the bacteria may go into the lead.

Beating breakdowns

When Beryl Downes, *Times* shopping editor, was treated for breast cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital this month, she had radiotherapy with the first Varian standing wave linear accelerator in Britain (*The Times*, April 20). It is due to be opened officially by Sir Eric Scowen next Wednesday.

The NHS could not afford to replace the existing, old machine, so the special trustees of the hospital, a charitable organization, paid more than £250,000 for a new American one. The cost of the installation was borne by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund as a major contribution in support of the work it does with the Cancer Unit at Bart's. Increasingly, radio cobalt units have been replaced by travelling wave linear accelerators. The manufacturer of the Varian machine standing wave accelerator claim that the new machine has the advantage of greater reliability and improved focusing.

Doctors always try to ensure that a patient's programme of treatment, which has to be carefully calculated, should not be compromised by equipment failure; by reducing the electronic complexity of the linear accelerator the possibility of breakdown is reduced.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
Medical correspondent

Shirley Lowe meets the woman who kept a generation of gossip writers busy

giggled over lunch at Romanoff's with Linda Darnell and Betty Grable. "We never stepped out without gloves and a hat," she says. "We were glamorous and we looked it. They were beautiful, beautiful years. I knew the golden era of Hollywood."

It was, she says, "all innocent fun" and, until she was 17, her only sexual experience was necking and a little petting. "I'd always fought off my eager young dates when they wanted to touch my breasts." Three or four husbands on, Miss Turner is still "dating", referring to her "engagement ring" and noting, as she sighs a good looking man, that her "heart beats a little faster".

Her hand is on her heart now as she says: "Thank God I was never called on to do nude scenes. I watch some of the things today and even when they kiss - the mouths opening before they get together, the tongues lashing in and out, the bodies grinding - it's all so different from the beautiful kisses we had with our lovely leading men." She blows delicate little kisses into the air. "It offends me, it's ugly. I turn my eyes away."

Louis B. Mayer once summoned the young Lana to his office and berated her for keeping late hours and getting her name in the papers: "The only thing you're interested in is..." and he pointed to his crotch. The world has been inclined to agree with Mr Mayer, after reading countless tales about Miss Turner's insatiable way with her leading men and good-looking stagehands. Yesterday, she published her autobiography, *Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth*, to set the record straight.

She is, she says, a sensual woman but not a sexy one. "The public has always seen me as a sexpot, jumping

Shirley Lowe meets the woman who kept a generation of gossip writers busy

in and out of bed with men all the time and having romances, but most times I married my romances."

Writing about her time with Tyrone Power, who broke her heart by marrying Linda Christian rather than Lana when his divorce came through, she confesses that she was not a great companion in bed: "What we shared was far more important than the physical side of our love... sex was never, with any man, the first thing on my mind... it was so much what I symbolized, so much of my image, that I closed myself off to the pleasures of the act. Holding hands, cuddling, being close together in bed, all those intimacies I enjoyed more than the actual sex... his gentleness was part of the reason I loved him."

Stars in the 1940s and 1950s were expected to be pure in public and the Turner-Power affair made headlines. "In those days you didn't 'live' with someone, you married them," says Miss Turner. "Just look at what happened to Ingrid Bergman when she defied the studios and had Rossellini's babies without marrying him."

Lana Turner had two abortions for propriety's sake and it sometimes seems as though her life has been ruled by reporters. "If I blew my nose wrong they'd write about it," she says, "and if they had nothing to write about they'd say: 'Let's see what we can make up about Lana Turner today.'" On the morning after her third marriage, to society playboy Bob Topping, Lana and her bridegroom stepped out of their honeymoon bungalow to find Hedda Hopper finishing up the remains of their breakfast and waiting for an "exclusive" on the wedding night.

"She was a crass, rude woman," she indicates her hairdresser, "he Ever since she eloped with bandleader Artie Shaw, when she

do? Tell her to get her so and so ass out of here?"

It was when this marriage failed that Miss Turner attempted suicide. "My love hadn't been enough. I was completely unlovable, a wholly unworthy human being."

This was the weakest moment of her life. Somehow, she has always found the strength to cope with public humiliation and private rejection; when her marriages failed, when her men deserted her, when she was censured over the upbringing of her daughter, Cheryl, had a classic Hollywood childhood with lavish parties and furs and strings of sapphires and ponies and a mother who, with the best will in the world, was forced to spend more time in the studio than the nursery. There were "special" schools and psychiatric centres and plenty of publicized rows between mother and daughter, but Cheryl, now 39, is running a successful real estate business in Honolulu and has turned out better than Miss Turner ever hoped: "I not only love her as a mother, I respect her. I'm the first to look at her and say: 'I like that young woman'."

The two of them still find it impossible to talk freely about the terrible night when Cheryl stabbed Johnny Stompanato to death with a kitchen knife after she heard him threatening to beat up her mother. They call it "the happening." But, in spite of the trial (justifiable homicide) and the trauma of seeing her child behind bars, Lana Turner went on to an Oscar nomination, to a successful theatre career, to the unlikely role of a grandmother in a television series called *Falcon Crest*.

"Many times I've said, 'This, too, will pass,'" she says. "Now, I can say, 'Okay, it's not going to come too close. I will come up and over this and be a better person.' I guess there was always a bit of that in me."

Ever since she eloped with bandleader Artie Shaw, when she

Changing faces of a screen goddess

The changing face of Lana Turner during her 45-year Hollywood reign. Left, with her mother and daughter, Cheryl; above, as she is today and, right, in her pin-up days.

was 19 and he promised her marriage and children and a cottage with roses round the door (the marriage lasted four months). Lana Turner has had a man in her life: "I married seven of them and I'm not proud of it. I always felt that a man would make my life complete, only to find out when I got to know them that I was stronger than any of them. Now, I like the fact that I do not have to depend on another human being to get me through a day, a week or a night."

Now, Miss Turner has found God. "He has always been in my life. He never left me, but I lost Him," she says. In the late 1970s she was very ill. "It had to do with drinking. I never got drunk or had a hangover. I didn't even appear to drink heavily. It was insidious. I was a sipper and there was always a drink there and I was taking small sips each day. I wasn't aware I was doing it. Finally, I became so ill that this beloved man, sitting right here in this room, said: 'I've made an appointment for you to see a doctor and don't say no. My brother here,' she indicates her hairdresser, "he truly saved my life."

As she exits, Miss Turner says: "God bless you and keep you safe. Write well and write with heart." Her right hand rests briefly, lightly on her left breast. It is, I say, a treat to meet her and everyone I know thinks I am very lucky to have the opportunity. She chuckles: "I expect they all said: 'You must tell me what she's really like...'" What she's really like is a genuine movie queen, the sort of solid gold superstar Hollywood doesn't manufacture any more. *"Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth"*, was published by New English Library yesterday, price £8.95.

The 'bête noire' who bit back for animal rights



Angela Walder, with her dog Gandhi, at the BUAV offices

Angela Walder, a clear-eyed 37-year-old, should pass unnoticed in a very small crowd. She impresses you with the matter of factness you might expect from a nurse or a teacher; yet the former Home Office Chief Inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act, Colonel Vine, calls her "an hysterical... a trouble-maker, a pain in the neck", and a former president of the Research Defence Society, who candidly admits "She's my bête noire", adds that she's "a right battuaxe".

Angela Walder's particular value to the animal rights movement is that she worked in a cancer research laboratory as an animal technician for 15 years before joining the opposition. Every morning at half past eight above the Costa Brava nightclub in the Charing Cross Road she begins an 11-hour day as scientific advisor to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. As World Day for laboratory animals approaches the offices have been open six and seven days a week. Beside the research papers to be read, the letters and lectures, the collating of new statistics and the publishing of the *Liberator*, there has been the complicated organization of Sunday's march from Clapham to Carshalton involving seven meetings with the police.

BUAV is an angry, active movement that has put down the respectable image of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Young vegetarians and Positive Punks have replaced kindly middle-aged ladies in hats.

Angela Walder's first job was as an animal technician with a local drugs firm. "There was and is a careless attitude to life. A researcher will ask for large numbers of animals to be bred and then go off for a seminar or a holiday. When he comes back the animals are the wrong age for the experiment, so they are all killed."

At 19 she joined the new Institute of Animal Technicians and in 1965 went to the Gray Laboratory to look after the animals bred for cancer research. She had decided that she could do more for the animals inside the system than outside.

Angela remembers Dr Gray, the director of the establishment, with affection. "He was a decent chap. He said to me that if I saw something I didn't like I could come and discuss it with him at any time. I could say to him or to Dr Hewitt 'Must the experiment be done like that? Couldn't we design it like this instead, and cut down on the number of animals used?'"

When Dr Gray died, his place as director was taken by Professor Fowler, a medical physicist with, despite the title, no medical qualifications. His first move was to double

the number of animals. Angela was made chief animal technician, and almost immediately became concerned over the treatment of the animals and the value of the experiments.

But she was most concerned over a series of new experiments by lab staff. "On one occasion I found that they were taking live mice and chopping off their heads with a decapitating machine. I asked why the mice weren't anaesthetized and was told that the anaesthetic might get into the bloodstream and invalidate the experiment. Anyone with an ounce of medical knowledge would have known that a volatile anaesthetic doesn't get into the bloodstream."

Her experiences at Gray Laboratory need not be taken as the norm, but after six years of detailed research into British vivisection she concludes that the 4,500,000 experiments a year rarely benefit humans.

"The World Health Organization itself tells us that out of the 30,000 to 40,000 drugs on the market, only 220 are of any real benefit. We already know that smoking and alcohol are bad for us, we do not need any further testing on cosmetics... And as far as cancer research is concerned, Lord Zuckerman stated in the report carried out for the Government that giving cancer to laboratory animals has not and will not help us to understand the disease or to treat human sufferers."

Angela and two of her technicians were encouraged to leave the cancer research laboratory in 1976. Professor Fowler remains the director.

With Kim Stallwood and Faye Funnell, Angela set up Coordinating Animal Welfare and under the same team BUAV took on an aggressive new lease of life. Membership in 2½ years has risen from 2,500 to 16,000. Their first achievement was to close Club Row, a notorious East London animal street market. She has worked closely with Lord Houghton of Sowerby, chairman of the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation, and on March 3 he put a Bill to close all sales of pets in street markets through its final reading in the Lords.

The battle cost Angela Walder eight arrests. She regards Club Row as "one small victory", but her solicitor Mary Rose Barrington remembers the long battle with admiration.

"When you meet Angela at first," she says, "she gives you no inkling that she is a really remarkable woman. It dawns on you gradually. She does get emotional, but I notice on television and on the radio she can get very angry but retains her grasp of facts and figures. While other people are blustering she'll inject five crisp facts."

Georgina Howell

THE TIMES
Saturday
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THE TIMES DIARY

Fortress Camden

Having basked in the media attention when publicity focused on troubles at *The Times* (my best friends call me Blabbermouth) I feel sorry for the terrorized staff at TV-am. They scuttle from their Camden Lock-up not even daring to nod at reporters whose offices they ring every night begging for stories they might follow. "I'll be thrown in the canal if I tell you anything," one poor chum whispered as he crept past. Two very large minders guard the entrance, flushing out reporters who seek shelter from the rain and watching that no one talks. On Wednesday even the company's press officer would only say: "The only statement I have to make is that I am going home." Mind you, he said it with relief.

Black mark

An indignant parent has provided me with an extract from his son's school geography exercise on South Africa, headed "Black Workers": "The blacks have to do things like mining because they aren't very clever. So they are given silly jobs like washing things and mining. They live in huts because they are so thick they don't complain about wages. While they are slogging away the English are having cups of tea and generally sitting on their backsides and doing nothing and living in big houses with lots of money." For this effort the lad, a pupil of Ravens Wood School, Bromley, was awarded eight marks out of ten.

Rate demands from Islington borough council, whose activities frequently amaze, are accompanied by a selection of leaflets including one introducing Britain's Most Powerful Shower. No, no, not the committee chairman, just an advertisement from a firm of sanitary engineers.

True or false?

Chile has proposed to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, meeting in Botswana, that it should continue to protect the Alerce false larch tree, provided that trade is permitted in dead specimens. Unusual as it is, the Alerce false larch, like all other trees, has the habit of becoming a dead specimen when it is cut down.

BARRY FANTONI



"I hope that means that if we don't like her election manifesto we'll be able to take it back and change it"

Girl guides

Of 800 who applied to take the London Tourist Board's course for guides, and 21 awarded their blue badges yesterday, Lady Jane Howard, daughter of Lord Waldgrave, was judged best of all. Part of her prize is a weekend in Cork. Lady Jane says she studied London on a boneshaker bicycle, and was often mistaken for a "would-be lady taxi driver in search of the knowledge". Three quarters of approved guides are women: LTB officials say it is to do with their being motherly and good with groups. That fits: Lady Jane has six children.

I have received a letter from Jehangir Dadabhai Challa of Bombay, and am rather taken with his letterhead. "High Class Caterer", it says. "Marriage and Navjot Dinners, Reception in Wadi & Fields."

Girling?

Kallaway, the sponsorship consultancy, keeps a list of perfect sponsorships, if only (like Bryant & May and *The Matchgirls*) they could be arranged. Favourites, of course, are *Oedipus Rex* backed by Mothercare and *Hamlet* brought to you by Danish Bacon. Kent Opera's *Fidelio* at Sadler's Wells has appropriately, benefiting Amnesty International collectors stationed outside. Now the company is seeking sponsors for next year's *Il Seraglio*. Any suggestions?

With Mrs PHS, as author of *Secrets of the Face*, running round the country telling people that the thicker their eyebrows the better the state of their kidneys, I am not surprised to see that the palmists are hitting back. In this week's *New Scientist* it is reported that researchers in Hyderabad have discovered that fingerprints can show susceptibility to duodenal ulcers. If you have many whorls, few loops and patterned palms, watch out. As soon as she came home I am going to get Mrs PHS to study the PHS/Sigynny and tell me why I have not had ulcers for ages.

PHS

Third World aid must not be cut

While the Prime Minister prepared last week to meet Tom Clausen, President of the World Bank, she received some tough advice in *The Times* from one of her newly created peers, Lord Bauer, and his economist colleague Professor Basil Yamey, about the growing dangers of giving aid to developing nations. In an exclusive interview with David Watt after his visit to Downing Street, Mr Clausen replied to the Tory critics, beginning with the waste and extravagance of Third-World governments.

Clausen: Everything is imperfect and development aid misses now and then. But I would say the overwhelming weight of evidence speaks in the other direction. Take a look at the completed projects that have occurred in World Bank lending. The bank does not finance or back the support of any developing country unless we are convinced it will produce at least an economic rate of return of 10 per cent. The average of completed projects has been 17 per cent in bank lending, 17.9 in International Development Association projects. In the last four years the rate of return for agricultural projects has been 22 to 27 per cent on average. It's a good return in anybody's language. (These are not financial rates of return but economic rates of return.)

Watt: Suppose you find that that rate is going down in a particular country. What sanctions do you have?

Clausen: Clearly we watch the directions. We want to learn from mistakes as quickly as we can. The world does change and we also want to build on strength and successes. But performance depends on a great many things under control and out of control, and to control economic development in the kind of environment we've had in the last few years is very difficult. Difficult in developed countries, let alone in developing countries.

The World Bank and the development aid agencies do not deal in development themselves - we are dealing with sovereign nations and sovereign nations have their own views as to what the priorities are. We do not however finance every project that a country puts on our table saying, "We'd like to help on this." We appraise it and if we think it is suitable and will give a rate of return we'll support it. If it's a white elephant, then a moral and financial institution like the World Bank, unlike other kinds of aid agencies, is able to have a policy dialogue with the country.

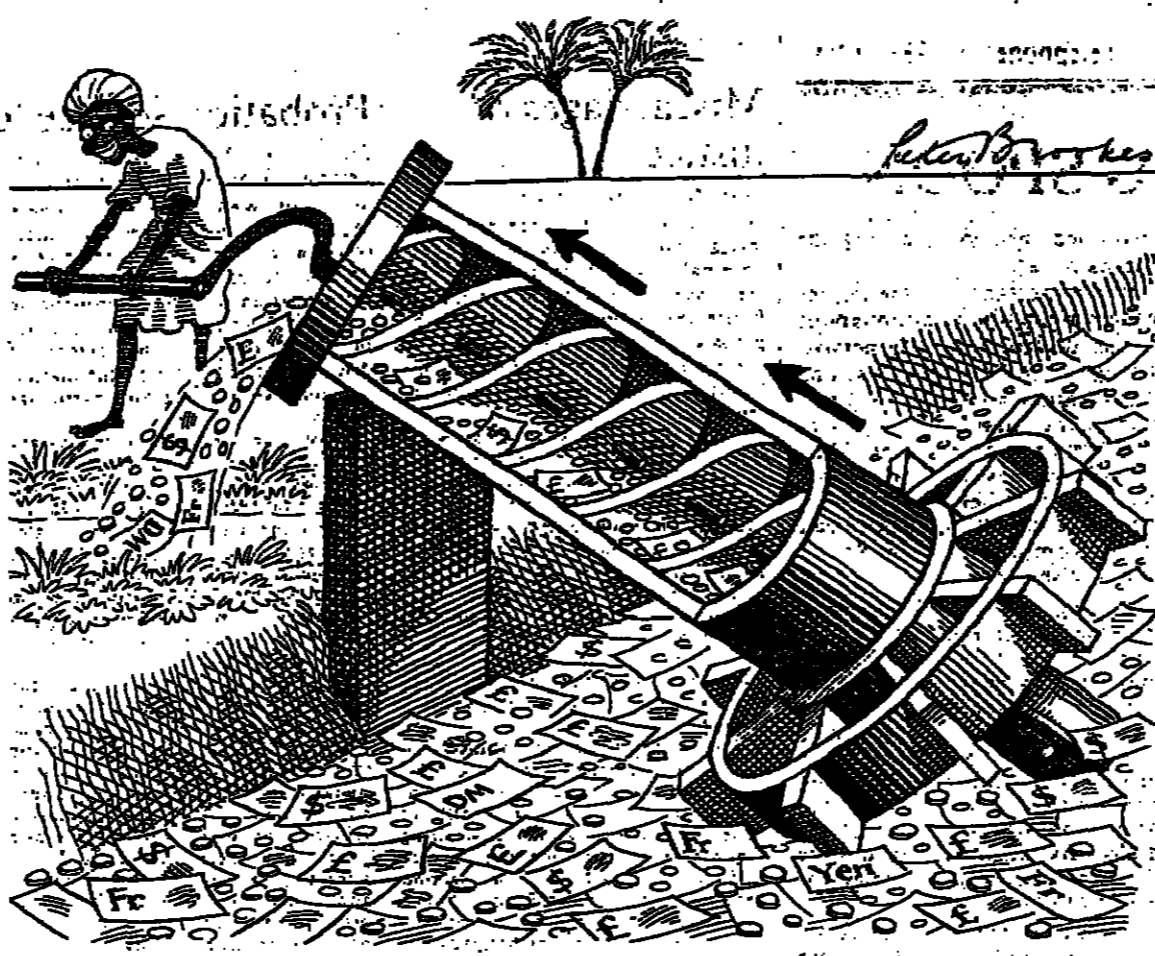
What is important is our experience. We are able to advise a developing country in a non-politicized way, in terms of economics, and what will produce economic returns and raise the standard of living of people.

Watt: If a country decides to spend a billion dollars on, say, building a new capital and you think it's a bad idea and a misallocation of resources, would you feel free to say so?

Clausen: We would feel free to say so and we do say when we are not approved. I myself sent a message to a head of government in which we said, "This is not the most desirable place or mechanism to achieve your objective and we cannot support it. However, if you use another instrument to achieve the objective and do it in these stages and these locations, we'll support you."

We have the courage to do so. The government has the final say so but we also have the final say so as to whether we want to support projects that we don't think fit the strategy of the government.

Watt: The critics say the claim



that aid is supposed to alleviate poverty is not really being fulfilled. Do you feel that?

Clausen: I would say there is a tremendous amount more that needs to be done. But we take to heart the mandate that we feel we have from developed countries and developing, to make sure that we are alleviating pain and poverty. That is why our highest economic priorities are agriculture and rural development because 80 per cent of those people at or below the poverty level live in rural areas. If we can help the poor people and the poorest of the people living in the agricultural areas to increase their standard of living, while helping them as entrepreneurs, we have something permanent in place. We do provide something physical - an irrigation system, a transportation system, a port, institutions, education institutions, health institutions, railway systems. We are not interested in handing money to governments who can then say, "One for me and two for them."

I would say that if you and I were to jump up on Mars and look down on planet Earth and look at only the last 20 years we should note that the lifespan of individuals in the developing countries has grown from the lower 40s to the mid 50s. If you look at literacy, if you look at infant mortality, health care, at standards of living, there are admittedly, huge gaps. But our emphasis is on those in the bottom part of the global pyramid, and our role is to advance the standard of living of these people. Anybody who stands on a box and says that development assistance does not help promote that is speaking without the fundamentals of empirical evidence under him.

Watt: Let me turn to another set of criticisms: What answer do you give to people who say, "Why should we put money for these countries? We've got no responsibility for them. They're hostile to us. They're not going to be changed by us giving them money. What is our self-interest in it?"

Clausen: In your lifetime and my lifetime we have seen countries that have been hostile to other countries and have gone through the process of evolution in time to become friends. Do we have a better chance for friendship with help or turning

our back because the other country's ideology is a bit different? Do we in the West - we in San Francisco - trade with the East? Sure, we trade with the East. Is it in our vested interests to help the eastern countries to develop their economies, so they can absorb more goods and services from us? I was taught that markets would be served; and why not let us try to serve. Then we can get some friendship.

I am a cautious banker by tradition and I am still cautious; but the World Bank can play a very useful role over the decade, in helping this to be a better world for all of us - for those in the East as well as in the West.

Watt: But you've got to raise your money in the West.

Clausen: We raise our money in the developed countries. We have access to the capital markets in the developed countries, we sell our securities by virtue of the fact that we have to call on the strong countries. I think East-West, North-South are political terms.

Watt: But you're in a political business.

Clausen: No, we're not. That's why I believe it does not lend to economic understanding of global dynamics to talk in economic terms of North and South. That's why I objected a year ago in Tokyo that it is not a bi-polar world. It's a multi-polar world. Where do you put a country like Saudi Arabia - North, South, North-South, who cares? What we have to find is economic solutions.

Watt: One thing you've said that makes the critics foam at the mouth is the argument about aid as a way of increasing trade. They would say that if you're going to subsidize economic activity, you'd much better do it at home.

Clausen: I can't buy that philosophy, I think there is more to be gained, by fostering trade on a rational economic basis than there is by excluding and isolating countries because of political ideologies. People are people whether they are in the east or the west.

Watt: Another set of arguments I should mention concerns the problem of debt. Critics say that by lending more or by rolling over existing debt, you are encouraging Third World countries to carry on as they have before in a reckless or reckless fashion.

Clausen: Well, there's no denying we're in very difficult financial times. The reason why more than 50 per cent of the debt that is owed by Third World countries was concentrated in, say, eight countries - Mexico, the Argentine, Chile, South Korea, Yugoslavia and some others - was that these were the countries that were showing the best growth in exports and export earnings when the global recession began.

To talk of recklessness or fecklessness, begs the issue. I don't think the world operates in a reckless way and clearly commercial banks don't operate in a reckless way. There may be a country here or there, but I think they are an exception. What we really need is growth. I think that the problem is manageable. It must be manageable because if we turn our backs on the situation, that is a far greater evil than trying to use the IMF and World Bank to help these countries adjust to the transition to slower growth of the next few years and to get foreign exchange earnings up and curtail their internal growth and excesses.

Individual countries must adjust. The UK must adjust: it is adjusting. France is adjusting and Japan. Developed countries and developing countries alike are adjusting and it is in everyone's interest to cooperate, including the multilateral institutions. The most critical in this field is the IMF but let's not forget the World Bank or throw the baby out with the bath water by forgetting the long-term aspect of development in our efforts to solve the short.

Watt: In this context what do you hope for from the Williamsburg Summit?

Clausen: I would like the seven strongest nations to realize that the developed countries cannot pull themselves out of the economic mess that we find ourselves in within their own strength. I think there's a growing awareness that the developed countries need the developing countries.

Not enough is going to these countries but given that 90 per cent of IDA goes to them, we are the largest aid, and may I say, the most effective, efficient, eloquent institution for intermediating funds and I think we deserve some support.

They had managed to free him. Yury demanded that guns be sent for the group's "security". This suggestion was immediately refused on principle; any shooting could result in injuries to innocent bystanders and would only make matters worse for those arrested. This was a regular KGB ploy in their efforts to show the NTS as a terrorist rather than a political movement with purely democratic aims. Yury suggested distributing NTS leaflets in 1977 on the sixtieth anniversary of the October revolution, doubtless suspecting that the NTS already had such plans and hoping to forestall them. This time Gieb arrived in Rome to discuss methods of distribution.

The affair ended when Peter turned up with a letter from Gieb claiming that Igor had been arrested for a motoring accident; according to Gieb, he must have left the scene of the accident in order to hide the leaflets he was carrying in his car. The NTS decided that nothing more was to be gained; they had already learned the KGB's plans to change the call structure into a linked movement which would be easier to roll up; capture NTS emigre leaders; end the distribution of NTS political literature; prevent cooperation between NTS groups and other opposition movements in the Soviet Union, and of course seize the West European tourists serving as couriers. It would appear that the trap set for Edward Chick was part of the same KGB campaign.

Russian NTS members arrested in the Soviet Union are not expelled after a few days of tough interrogation, nor are they sent home after some years of harsh imprisonment, as was British lecturer Gerald Brooke. On March 1, Valery Senderov, a member of the independent trade union movement, was sentenced to seven years in a labour camp plus five years' exile to a remote region of the USSR after saying on arrest that he was proud to be associated with the NTS. Most members of the free-trade union and other dissident groups prefer to stay separate from the Western-based organisation, which judging from the Soviet press reports, the KGB regards as the most dangerous opposition movement.

Iain Elliot

Sourer Melikian

How much profit left under the hammer?

An illustration was needed of the distance that separates the art market from other fields of the economy, it has been provided by the attempted takeover by Cogan and Swid of Sotheby's in London.

The first essential difference is that the art market, unlike any other, does not deal in identical units. No two works of art are alike. The probable value of each is determined by its relative importance to others - in terms of aesthetic achievement, historical significance within the artist's oeuvre or a given category and state of preservation.

Moreover, the probable value is inseparable from a complex of past circumstances (whether it has been in the news recently or offered on the market) and conditions to be ensured at the time of the sale (the more expensive and important the work, the more sophisticated and chancy the buildup of potential demand). This is why the low and high estimates produced before a sale by auction-house professionals vary from 20 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

This is also why decision making in this business cannot be separated from expertise. The expert is not just an academic delivering remote advice. He is more like a doctor prescribing a therapy.

The second major difference is that: the art market - with the exception of contemporary art, which accounts for a negligible proportion of transactions - is a closed market in which available quantities can dwindle only through museum acquisitions or destruction. Things have reached the point where the need to get a sufficient amount for sale has led to a battle between auction houses, each attempting to outdo the competition by offering better catalogues, better exposure of works to be sold through travelling exhibitions or better sale terms, ie, lower fees.

In some cases, this may even mean no fees because the prestige generated by the sale is considered essential and the fear of seeing the competitor getting the collection for sale too great.

Last, auction rooms have increasingly given way to pressure from speculation-minded vendors to accept high reserves. And, as in the 1981-1982 period, reserves tended too often to exceed the buyers' willingness to pay and works failed to sell with increasing frequency. All this led to auction houses spending more and earning less - hence, among other causes, Sotheby's discomfiture.

Bearing these factors in mind, auction house professionals dread the consequences that a change of leadership could have. First, they point out, the leadership has been changed. So there is no point in arguing that Sotheby's has been mismanaged. Julian Thompson, the Chinese art expert who had nothing to do with the management side until the spring of 1982 - but had amply demonstrated his acumen as the builder of Sotheby's Hong Kong, its greatest success story over the years - has been running the show since then.

Some, however, and not just those based in London, concede that the New York end of the business is not yet displaying all the necessary managerial consistency. Most believe that a commission war might

be triggered in an effort to develop business by attracting more vendors. Mr Marshall Cogan has let it be known that besides putting up \$100m (about £64m) to buy Sotheby's he and his partner would still be willing to lay out as much as \$26m to allow Sotheby's to regain its position of preeminence. Sotheby's would therefore have the financial muscle to adopt a more aggressive policy.

I believe that if the commission war starts, the effect on the art market as a whole will be disruptive. Christie's, the present and leading arch-competitor, would be under such enormous pressure that its most prudent decision-makers might be forced to give in. By lowering commissions in turn, they would soon run the risk of drastically reduced profits, if not even of being in the red.

Any such process would be spread over a period of time, say two to three years, which would be more than enough to have devastating effects on the auction market and on the trade.

If too many of the works that are currently offered to dealers, either directly for sale or on commission, should be snatched off their circuit, some would simply have to give up the game since in today's penny market the main problem is to get the goods at a realistic price.

The second fear is that Cogan and Swid would be tempted to lay increasing emphasis on New York.

To attempt to build up the New York auction base at the expense of London could, in the view of many art-market professionals, be counter-productive for all concerned.

When the fear of geographical shifts of power was mentioned, Cogan replied: "We intend to keep the company legally domiciled in London. The legal offices will be predominantly UK. We intend to invite representatives of the experts' staff as well as existing Sotheby board members who can contribute to the future of the company."

A third fear of the staff, Cogan volunteered, was that the two businessmen would be using the firm's name for commercial purposes. "There will be no franchising of the name," he firmly says.

"Ah, now," comes the reply from the other side, "there are other ways..."

My guess is that if Cogan and Swid persist, they will succeed. If so, competition between rival auction houses will intensify, generating higher operating costs. And this, the market can no longer bear. As it is, the system is already too expensive in relation to the sum total of goods it can process, and is in great danger of becoming permanently unprofitable.

There used to be untapped categories which served as the new frontier. Everything has now been explored, from biscuit tins to vintage cars. The alternative solution - pushing prices up - has found its limits. Too much then fails to sell.

This is the heart of the problem. No matter who runs the show, an era is inexorably coming to an end. The pace and the structure will have to change, without delay.

The author writes on the saleroom matters for the *International Herald Tribune*.

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Philip Howard

This machinery owes me money

One of these days I am going to accept its invitation, and phone the London Automatic Machine Company on 508 8111, in case of complaint. The trouble is that I never have time to complain: this is the company whose machines pretend to dispense chocolate bars and chewing-gum on the platforms of London's Underground railway system. They accept your money, and refuse to dispense. You curse, dance up and down, kick the machine, formulate a blistering complaint... and then the train comes. Any fool can see that you are throwing away 20 pence by putting it in one of the machines. The compartments are check-book-free with chocolate bars, and have clearly never dispensed one of them. I dare say that there are not real chocolate bars behind the glass, but empty wrappers, as idle as a painted chip upon a painted promotion.

I shudder to think how much money the Underground highwayman at Hammersmith on the Piccadilly Line has ripped off me over the years. Probably the coins go straight down into a pit below, which has raised £3m since the grand opening in 1906 of Hammersmith as the western terminus of the Great Northern, Piccadilly & Brompton Railway.

You may say that the desire for chocolate bars is a pitiful weakness; that once bitten one ought to be twice shy; and that anybody who continues to poke tuppenny pieces through a little slot when he knows that nothing will come of it deserves all he gets in this case, not a lot, except a backlog of complaints he can never make. But hacks racing around the world after scoops have to take their meals where they can find them. Hammersmith is the graveyard of journalists' lunches.

This is just one more melancholy example of the axiom that modern packaging and marketing intended to make life easier, do the opposite. In the Dark Ages, when the monks brought you milk in a jug and butter in a lordly dish (the lordliness depended on the class of restaurant),

Today you get butter on your fingers and tie, unwrapping those tiny rectangular rhomboida of butter, and the packages of everlasting milk are as impenetrable as the tin of pineapple was to the Three Men in a Boat. In Motorway cafes (I told you that hacks lead a hard life) everything comes packaged and sealed so as to cause the maximum inopportunity, even the mustard.

But of all the cans which are canted in this canting world - though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst - the cant of razor blades is the most tormenting. I do not ask much from the process of getting up in the morning. I should feel uneasy with a *levelle* as elaborate as that of the Feldmarschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, with Italian tresses, hairdressers and chaps dressed as maids hiding in the cupboard. All I need is a razor blade that is easy to unwrap and fasten, and stays sharp. When I started shaving, it was evident that Gillette employed scientists to invent safety blades that were brilliantly sharp when they were unwrapped, and rusted as soon as they had been used once. In the Black Watch, where rust was a serious crime, the prudent fock kept one unused razor and virgin blade for Adjutant's inspection, and another necessarily rusty one hidden in his locker for shaving.

The introduction of new, double-edged, long-lasting razor blades should have been a liberation. As one might have guessed, the two main manufacturers change the packaging and machinery of their blades regularly, so that it is a law of life that one always has the wrong blades for the right razor. How can a chap in a crowded supermarket remember whether he shaves with Contour or Cutless, or whatever silly names they are called? Whichever he buys is wrong; it needs a razor that slips in sideways rather than one on which you press down the little knob on the top. Darun Scipio Africanus, who was, according to Pliny the Elder, the first man to be shaved every day? 'bet he used oyster shells, and I bet he had trouble unwrapping them, too.



"Petr" (left) - Vladimir Nikolayevich Lopukhov, introduced as Konstantin Semeynovich Malyshev; "Yury" - Valery Vasilyevich Karpinsky, introduced as Andrei Nikolayevich Rodionov; "Igor" - Yury Fyodorovich Baryshev, introduced as Pyotr Koryevich Didkov; "Gleb" - Anatoly Nikolayevich Burlov, introduced as Vladimir Nikolayevich Lesqitsky

Cat and mouse with the KGB

assistants, "Igor" and "Gleb". Yury was always garrulous, talking of his group's clandestine plans and about the general situation in the Soviet Union. He was even prepared to answer questions about his family and friends, but talked only in vague terms about his job as a middle-ranking official in the Ministry of Education. He was extremely rude about the Soviet leaders and the Soviet system.

NTS suspicions grew when Petr brought along to one meeting a copy of a "manifesto" which he claimed the group was distributing in Moscow, but NTS sources denied that any such document was circulating. Much more useful for the NTS were the local newspapers, which Petr brought, since they contain useful addresses to which NTS literature can be sent, and are not available in the West on subscription. He even supplied several very scarce Soviet telephone directories.

Yury, with extraordinary good fortune for a humble official in the Ministry of Education, now organized a business trip to Paris, where he again insisted that someone in authority in the NTS must come to Moscow to plan strategy. He gave his home address and office telephone number, emphasizing that for reasons of security contacts must be made only from public telephone boxes.

Yury impressed his NTS contacts as an interesting and pleasant person, but he seemed astonishingly naive about the dangers which he would face as the leader of an NTS cell. In Moscow, genuine NTS members checked the address and telephone number and discovered that no such number was listed at the Ministry of Education, and no official of Yury's claimed status would be entitled to an ex-directory number. Since in Moscow it is possible by paying just two kopeks at an information booth to obtain the address of anyone whose name and date of birth are known, it quickly became clear there was no such person.

Some NTS leaders favoured dropping the contacts immediately, but they were persuaded by others to continue the game, which would have the advantages of being able to feed information to the KGB, and of being able to use material from Petr and, by keeping the KGB busy with this operation, delay their launching some new ploy. The deception cost the NTS little but time and some political literature on the formation of a democratic Russia. Yury continued to insist that he needed senior men to talk to his friends, and asked for couriers to be sent with messages and literature at least twice a month.

He claimed that one of his group

مذمن لادام



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STRATEGY OF THE LONG SPOON

Lord Carrington was right to raise the thorny subject of British-Soviet relations yesterday, when he called on the West to start a new dialogue with the USSR, especially in view of the imminent departure to Moscow of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. It will be the first bilateral visit by a British visitor since 1977. The years between have been marked by a growing rift, caused not only by Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Poland, but also by a general inability to accept as valid the ideology of the other side.

A senior Soviet political commentator, Alexander Bovin, who is now in London for the discussions of the Anglo-Soviet Round Table held in Chatham House, stated on BBC television on Wednesday that he saw no prospects for constructive dialogue with the United States while President Reagan remains in office. Bovin expressed particular annoyance at Reagan's attack on the USSR as an "empire of evil" but politely avoided repeating his usual *Invostiya* attacks on the evils of the capitalist West.

This Soviet attitude is clearly not helpful. If the armed blocs wait until they approve of each other's system before conducting serious negotiations, the industrialized world could remain indefinitely in its present dangerous state, or come to ashes in a nuclear holocaust.

Britain has a particularly important role to play in this East-West dialogue, being firmly of Western Europe, yet having a "special relationship" with the United States which must remain a cornerstone of our foreign policy. What should our aims be in this vital dialogue?

In the matter of defence there is a sound basis for agreement with Mr Yuri Andropov's dis-

missal of unilateralism as "naive". If the USSR can be persuaded to remove its SS-20 missiles only by the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Britain and other European countries, then deployed they must be. Lord Carrington pointed out the need for Western Europe to play a bigger defence role. This must be complementary to Nato; it can certainly be no substitute for the Atlantic alliance.

The foreign policy of our two systems can never be reconciled. While the West's understanding of "peaceful coexistence" can be summarized as "live and let live", the Soviet leaders are committed to the definition in their Party programme that peaceful coexistence "further the world socialist revolution and helps mankind to accomplish the transition from capitalism to socialism". The theory of "socialist inter-nationalism" by which the USSR justifies even armed interference in the internal affairs of its own satellites, once known in the West as the Brezhnev doctrine, has smoothly and almost imperceptibly become the Andropov doctrine.

Just as Britain has never accepted as legal the *de facto* incorporation of the Baltic states in the USSR - victims of the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 - we should not accept the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or interference in Poland. What can be done about it is another matter. The Kabul regime may arrest a French doctor, but supplying medical aid to the Afghans is clearly a moral duty, whatever Moscow may say. Supplying radio transmitters is also reasonable. The wisdom of encouraging even unofficial deliveries of weapons must first, however, be carefully debated, although no moral scruples

restrained the USSR during the Vietnam war.

It is important that the Soviet leaders are left in no doubt about British determination to persist, through the United Nations Organization and other forums, with denunciations of Soviet interference in other states. They have never hesitated to distort events in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, although there can be no comparison with Soviet actions elsewhere.

During his recent Moscow trip, the French Foreign Minister, Chevillon, took a firm line on matters such as the independent nuclear deterrent, and Britain must do likewise. Our support for human rights and the prisoners of conscience should not falter, nor should our determination to expel Soviet diplomats caught spying, despite the deterioration in relations which can follow.

In trade there is certainly room for progress. But there must be absolutely no question of a return to the silly détente of the 1970s when the USSR could receive imports of strategic value at absurdly low interest rates unobtainable in the Western countries themselves.

The USSR has long been skilled at exploiting the competitive urges of Western businessmen. The ban on all goods of strategic significance must be tightened. Even if means can be found to overcome such sanctions, the cost to the Soviet military budget generally rises. Where trade can grow to the mutual advantage of the peoples of both blocks, why not encourage it to the full? Cultural exchanges on a clearly reciprocal basis might also be allowed to expand again. The West certainly impresses Soviet visitors, and some defect. But there are no defections to the USSR by Western tourists.

THE POLITICS OF GRIEF

To turn away Argentine mourners after making such handsome provision for relatives of the British dead to visit the Falkland Islands has an appearance of harshness. Their grief is presumably no less, their desire to honour the graves with their presence as natural, and their claim on human sympathy as great.

But the matter is not as simple as that. In defeat, the Argentine junta showed a numb indifference towards their captured soldiers on the islands and towards the dead that lay there. They ignored repeated British offers to facilitate the removal of the bodies to their homeland for burial. It fell to the British to give them burial, and that was done with care and soldierly respect. Two hundred and twenty-two bodies have been gathered, less than half of them identified, and they lie each marked by a plain white cross in a cemetery behind the hill at Darwin.

Such inhumane indifference on the part of the Argentine authorities seems to require a political explanation. Perhaps since they could not hold Las Malvinas with the living, they left their dead as token of their claim. At any rate there is good reason to suspect that elements in Argentina will seek at some stage to exploit the presence of

these fallen soldiers in order to embarrass the British or rally patriotic sentiment. The nature of the present attempt to arrange a visit from Argentina does not help to dissipate one of that suspicion. The organizers, the Centre of Volunteers for the Falklands, are a patriotic ginger group and their insistence on sailing under the Argentine flag is a deliberate challenge to the attitude adopted by the British.

The British Government is willing to permit relatives of the Argentine dead on the Falklands to visit their graves: it is not willing to allow any visit to be exploited for political ends, or excessively embarrass the Falklanders. It has therefore committed the arrangements to the International Committee of the Red Cross, attaching a number of conditions all of which the ICRC has accepted.

One is that the visit should be organized and supervised by the ICRC. Others are that visitors should be close relatives of the dead, their names supplied in advance and verified by the Red Cross; that the vessel must not be under an Argentine flag or crew; that it should be inspected by the ICRC before departure; that no press or cameramen should be included; that the visitors should be accommodated on the vessel and escorted

to and from the cemetery in the course of a single day.

These are reasonable conditions on which to insist (except that it is a bad principle, and betrays nervousness, to preclude eye-witness reporting of the event). Since the ICRC is unable to conclude arrangements with the Volunteers for the Falklands because they will not agree to the Red Cross requirements of neutrality, the Government is unquestionably right to forbid entry to that particular expedition.

Nevertheless the British position is vulnerable to misrepresentation, especially in Latin America. It will be necessary to make very plain the willingness of the Government to open the cemetery to the relatives of the men it holds, and the reasons for the conditions imposed. It would be advisable to go further. Allowance must be made for the islanders' understandable reluctance to have Argentines back so soon in any capacity whatever. But that should not prevent the Government from taking a more positive position. While still leaving the arrangements in the hands of the ICRC, it could offer some encouragement to the Argentine people by looking out for more suitable sponsors than the present one, whether among the agencies of the Argentine Government or more likely among church organizations.

SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF THE CAP

The combined efforts of the European Commission and Mr Peter Walker appear to be achieving a satisfactory outcome to this year's farm-price negotiations in Luxembourg. It could not be described as a spectacular victory, but it is a decidedly welcome contrast to last year's humiliating defeat for Mr Walker, when he tried in vain to prevent a 10.5 per cent increase in intervention prices. His attempt on that occasion to use the so-called "Luxembourg compromise", which allows EEC member states a veto on the plea of overriding national interest, was to his astonishment rejected by the then united forces of the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

This time round, however, the Commission was determined upon moderation. If there was any doubt about that, it was dispelled by Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agricultural Commissioner, earlier this week when he warned the assembled ministers that spending on the common agricultural policy was racing out of control, and that this year's shortfall might be as much as £1,200m.

Thus, knowing that they had an ally in Mr Walker, the commissioners let it be known that any change in their proposed 4.2 per cent average price

increase would have to have the unanimous consent of all ten ministers. That was clearly not going to be, and it now seems that those countries which had been pressing for 7 per cent and more have had to resign themselves to increases as low as 2.3 per cent for milk and 3 per cent for cereals. Other products which are not in significant surplus will receive slightly more generous treatment.

One result will certainly be to damp down rises in food prices in the shops, although the relationship is not as simple as might be thought. The likelihood that farmers' incomes this year will grow less than their costs may have some effect in curbing production and therefore surpluses, but it will be at best marginal. Moreover, the debate is not yet at an end, since there is now bound to be considerable acrimony over the complex issue of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

MCAs are intended to balance fluctuations between currency values and the more stable Green rates, in which farm prices are calculated. For countries with weak currencies they act as a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports, with the object both of eliminating what is seen as unfair competition and preventing the activities of

speculators who would otherwise be able to buy cheaply in one country and sell profitably into intervention storage in another.

They are inevitably unpopular with farmers in, say, France, who feel they are being deprived of export opportunities offered by the present weakness of the franc. Conversely, their abolition would be strongly opposed by the German lobby which fears a flood of cheap imports.

It is possible to sympathize with both views. British pig farmers have yet to recover from the effects of "negative" MCAs in the 1970s, when sterling was at its weakest, which allowed Danish bacon to gain nearly half the British market. But equally the Germans have a case in arguing that, with products whose prices are centrally fixed in Brussels, they cannot compensate for the strength of the Deutschmark by greater efficiency, as they can in other industries.

The main objection to MCAs, however, is that they directly contradict one of the Community's basic aims, namely a free trade in agricultural products. They are yet another complication in the appallingly cumbersome CAP which, despite this week's welcome news, is as urgently in need of reform as ever.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Those of us concerned with miscarriages of justice in the criminal law will be gladdened by the Government's proposals that in future the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more cases back to the Court of Appeal and that the Court of Appeal will be readier to receive them.

What gives less cause for satisfaction, however, is the proposal, summarized in your leading article (April 16) of the Home Secretary calling experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations in particularly complex cases.

The recent history of one-man investigations by experienced lawyers is not a happy one because of their deep-seated though understandable reluctance to admit that, from time to time, things can go dreadfully wrong.

For instance, the first inquiry into the Evans/Christie case, conducted by the experienced John Scott-Henderson, QC, used a wealth of false premises and misleading arguments to conclude that justice had not miscarried. The second inquiry, by Mr Justice Bribbin, found that Evans had not murdered his child (for which he was hanged) but perversely for both bodies were found strangled together) that he had murdered his wife.

The report by Sir Henry Fisher on the Conbit case left much to be desired, while just recently we have had Lord Hunter's report on the Meehan case in which, rather than accept the probability of police planting of evidence and despite Meehan's free pardon, he incriminated Meehan as an accessory to the crime in a scenario which owed more to inventiveness than credibility.

By all means let us have experienced lawyers to act as chairmen of these investigations, to lead tone to the proceedings and see they are conducted in a dignified and orderly manner. But if proposing on an alleged miscarriage of justice is the aim, let them be joined by two lay assessors: that way we are more likely to establish the truth.

As advocates and referees our Bar and Bench are second to none; but they are not the best people for determining whether the system which they and their brethren operate has erred.

There is nothing very radical in this proposal. After all, when judges sum up, they habitually tell juries that while they (the judges) are the authors of the law, it is the jury, or lay assessors, who must reach a verdict on the facts.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace,
Edinburgh 4,
April 19.

Public records

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, The financial thinking behind Mr Camp's (April 15) "entire answer" to Lord Teviot's escapes me. He seems to be merely pushing the problem from the Public Record Office pillar to the local government post. Save the taxpayer at the ratepayer's expense.

Some local record offices already hold registers, but very many would find themselves quite unable to cope with the burdens of space and time which would be created by the transfer of local superintendent registers' records. It may be an "entire answer" for the genealogist, but it does nothing to resolve the real problem behind the Bill: that a projected 100,000 registers will be released on the PRO (or on local record offices, if Mr Camp has his way) without any financial provision for coping with them.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR GRAY,
The Association of County Archivists,
Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
April 19.

Middle East tensions

From Mr Alan Mackie

Sir, Surely the Palestinians have every reason to blame the Americans for their present predicament and it is caving in to you to suggest, in your leader of April 12, that they should not.

Of course there are thuggish elements in the Palestinian resistance movement. But their posturing does not make the Israeli and indeed is irrelevant to them. With extremism there will be victims; be they called Argov, Sarisawi, Hamami, the Mialot, children or the 8,200 civilians killed in Lebanon - Messrs Begin and Sharon, after all, the Israeli equivalent of Abu Nidal.

First and foremost, it is American pusillanimity, exacerbated by moderate Arab states' complacency in allowing her to get away with it, that is the root cause of the current Middle East crisis. Lacking the guts to confront the Jewish lobby, successive American Administrations have fished for an Arab leader to "go it alone".

King Hussein nearly took the bait in 1967 after the June war but was not given sufficiently concrete assurances. President Sadat, the first Arab leader to break ranks was, in his own words, "left naked" after Camp David when Mr Begin denied any undertaking to freeze settlements, and President Carter was impotent to enforce what was a clear and crucial understanding. Little wonder that the King has balked at joining the current peace talks without the PLO on vague American promises to pressure Israel. American promises have no credibility.

Yours truly,
ALAN MACKIE,
66 Canonbury Road, N1,
April 14.

Probation service 'cheeseparating' denied

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Lord Wells-Pestell and others (April 19), in expressing their concern at the Home Secretary's decision to reduce the salary scale for probation students, commencing with those who would start courses in 1983, refer to the extent of discussion and debate on the matter. I would like to make four particular points.

First, the changes in the salary scale will not apply to existing students, nor do they in any way touch on the pay of probation officers themselves. The new scales will apply to students who are accepted for sponsorship on courses beginning this coming September, so the letter is misleading to suggest that "every trainee will be worse off".

My second point is that the present system of salaries, supported by the Home Office for students, who aim to obtain a qualification (the certificate of qualification in social work) so that they could seek appointment in the probation service, was introduced in 1970 at a time when there was difficulty in attracting a sufficient number of applicants. It had the effect of placing the students in a favourable position in comparison with students preparing for similar careers (the annual unit cost of probation students is £7,000, compared with £4,000 for DHSS grants to social work students). The present extent of this favoured treatment is no longer justified with the very encouraging number of suitable applicants who now come forward.

Thirdly, in reviewing the salary scale, the opportunity was taken to give greater relative recognition to the special contribution which mature entrants can make to the work of the probation service and to which Lord Wells-Pestell's letter itself attaches importance. For those aged 34 or over the new scale represents an increase during the first year, and over the full period of

the two-year course the reduction is less than half of one per cent.

My final particular point is that it seems to me that Lord Wells-Pestell's letter betrays a lack of understanding in describing as "cheeseparating" a measure which is expected to save £300,000 in a full year. It may help to put this sum of money into better perspective to note that the cost of introducing one of the most important of these new measures - community service for 16-year-olds - is estimated to be £250,000, hardly "cheeseparating".

The probation service has done well under this Government: between June 1979 and June 1982, the number of probation officers increased by 8 per cent to 5,600 and the number of probation ancillaries (such as community service supervisors) increased by 30 per cent to 1,026. During the financial year 1982-83 there was provision for an increase of 3 per cent in staff and staff support services, and provision for growth continues until March, 1985.

This growth will help the service respond to the increased demand, including growth in numbers of supervisory sentences in accordance with the Government's policy of encouraging the use of non-custodial measures. But at a time when the Government is seeking to restrain public expenditure as a whole no service can be exempt from the search for economies.

The Home Secretary shares the regret that the National Association of Probation Officers should have decided to hold a one-day strike on April 27 in protest at this decision, the more so in view of the importance he attaches to the contribution the service makes to dealing with offenders in the community. Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
April 21.

Nuclear balance

From the Editor of NATO Review

Professor Sir Martin Ryle (March 30) says that "as late as June, 1979, the NATO Review affirmed the "non-dramatic" character of the SS20", and he later asserts that the same edition of the magazine notes that the deployment of cruise missiles in Europe "would make (arms) control impossible".

On re-reading the edition to which Sir Martin is presumably referring (no 3, June, 1979), I can find no trace of either statement. In fact, the text of a Nuclear Planning Group communiqué (of April 25, 1979) published in the documentation section stated that ministers, discussed, with continuing concern, Soviet modernization of their nuclear force systems which is being undertaken on a scale well in excess of defensive requirements as proposed by any Nato developments. In particular,

Christians and Jews

From Miss Anna Kasket

Sir, How can we be "grateful" for any deed which is evil, whatever the immediate consequences? While seeking to conciliate both sides in the current "scapgoat", antisemitism arena, may I suggest that Archdeacon Derek Hayward (April 16) is, on the other hand, treading dangerous ground in providing Jews with a less than attractive get-out clause and Christians with better means of absolving themselves of "sending Jesus to the Cross" after all.

We can only agree that it would have been better if there were no sin and no crucifixion, rather than there are bad acts and that humanity is granted the occasion for these to be redeemed. Christians, in turn, must not assign Jews the role of instruments or slaves, in the interest of their own salvation.

Sin existed before the crucifixion: the crucifixion itself, as Archdeacon Hayward writes at the beginning of his letter, is the specific and uniquely horrific example able to enforce our sense of sin.

It is, sadly, obvious that the discussion about the crucifixion and antisemitism is in essence a discussion about blame: either the

ministers took note of the extensive improvements the Soviets are making in their long-range theatre forces threatening Nato Europe, especially the SS20 missile, which affords improvements over previous systems in providing greater accuracy and more mobility and in having multiple warheads on each missile.

The opening article in this same issue of NATO Review by Alexander Haig (then Securo) made a similar point and, turning to the effect that any modernization programme by Nato might have on arms control efforts, Haig insisted that such a programme was "a prerequisite for sound arms control measures", something that subsequent developments would seem to confirm.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. JENNER,
Editor, NATO Review,
Information Directorate,
North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
1110-Brussels, Belgium.

Jews are to be blamed as the best collection of the worst kind of men or as the correspondent in the latest edition of the TLS tries to suggest, we are not meant to be relieved vicariously (I would add, on the human plane) and "neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers" (Deuteronomy 24:16). Yours sincerely,
ANNA KASKET,
Lincoln College, Oxford.

Fall in casualties

From Mr Frank West-Oram

Sir, Early indications (report, April 14) of a significant fall in motorist road casualties, following the compulsory seat belt measure, are indeed welcome.

However, for purposes of comparison, I think you should in future issue alongside the motorist figures details of casualty changes to pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motor-cyclists, who get no benefit from seat-belt and who make up more than half the total road deaths - 3,315 out of 8,846 in 1981.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WEST-ORAM,
Vice-Chairman,
The Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety,
1-5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

Water Bill changes

From Mr Roland C. Rench

Sir, Before the Water Bill was published I expressed, through your columns, (letters, July 19, 1982) serious doubts, concerning Government proposals for restructuring the membership, etc, of water authorities. Those misgivings have now been reinforced by the insistence of the Government, in the House of Lords, not to concede any amendment whatsoever to clause 7.

In particular, I am astonished that, despite overwhelming pressure from all quarters, an amendment that would have made it mandatory for the chairperson of a Consumers' Consultative Council to be elected by its members (and not left to the discretion of the associated water authority) was not accepted.

There is still time for the Government to relent - and demonstrate that it believes in democratic methods as well as Victorian values.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND C. RENCH,
8 Minshull Place,
Park Road,
Beckenham,
Kent,
April 17.

Endangered species?

From Lord Cudlipp

Sir, The Daily Express published yesterday (April 19) a coloured section entitled "Our Vanishing Countryside", naming some of the species on the protected list covered by the new Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The danger list included the kingfisher, the otter, the swallowtail, the whooper swan, the osprey, the hoopoe, the golden eagle and the snowy owl, with whose characteristics we are all familiar, but omitted the editors of the Daily Express, the most endangered species of all.

CND's presence at peace meetings

From the General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, The issue of CND's limited observer status at the forthcoming World Peace Council Assembly in Prague in June is not quite as simple as you would like to make it (leading article, April 21).

One large piece doesn't fit into the jigsaw which you outline. In May of this year CND will be present as full participants at the END (European Nuclear Disarmament) Convention in West Berlin. Yet that convention has been bitterly attacked by the Soviet Peace Committee, which very much resents END, which CND helped to found and continues to support.

That there are risks of manipulation in going to Prague is clear, but then we have also learned over the last few years that manipulation is not a technique known only to the East.

By a majority CND council decided that, at this time of a new cold war, it was better to try to communicate than to isolate. Is the nuclear arms race really exclusively the responsibility of the Soviets? Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT, General Secretary,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
14 Goodwin Street, N4,
April 21.

Cypriot heritage

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, In your special supplement on Cyprus (April 6) Amy MacDonald writes that "The island was first inhabited in 1200 BC by Phoenicians and Assyrians, followed by Egyptians and Persians". The date is wrong and the facts are wrong.

The first settlements in the island are dated about 7000 BC. It was never inhabited by either Assyrians, Egyptians or Persians. The rulers of those countries took tribute from the Cypriot kingdoms for 50, 24 and 200 years respectively in the eighth, sixth and fifth to fourth centuries BC. There was a Phoenician kingdom at Kition (near Larnaca) from about 850 BC but this was their only settlement and there were nine Greek kingdoms. By the third century BC Kition had been entirely assimilated into the Hellenistic Greek cultural and political world.

Your correspondent's evident intention, or that of her informants, is to suppress all mention of the fact that throughout recorded history the population, language and culture of the island have been in overwhelming proportion Greek, a word she never mentions. Her choice of date is odd: it has no relevance whatever to the extraneous peoples she mentions but it is the approximate date of the arrival of the Greeks.

Since then, under successive rulers, the Greek character of the island has been preserved to the present day. The first major change in the racial composition of the island came after 1571 AD when the Turkish conquerors brought in Anatolian settlers whose descendants now amount to a minority of under twenty per cent. Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
East Wing,
Lindfield,
Sussex,
April 13.

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From Mr Roland C. Rench

Sir, Before the Water Bill was published I expressed, through your columns, (letters, July 19, 1982) serious doubts, concerning Government proposals for restructuring the membership, etc, of water authorities. Those misgivings have now been reinforced by the insistence of the Government, in the House of Lords, not to concede any amendment whatsoever to clause 7.

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The danger list included the kingfisher, the otter, the swallowtail, the whooper swan, the osprey, the hoopoe, the golden eagle and the snowy owl, with whose characteristics we are all familiar, but omitted the editors of the Daily Express, the most endangered species of all.

There have been six editors of the Daily Express within six years.

One hopes that Sir Larry Lamb, the new incumbent, will demonstrate another phenomenon of nature, the survival of the fittest. Yours faithfully,
HUGH CUDLIPT,
The Dene,
Lindbourne,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
April 19.

CHINA

Problems facing the post-Mao leadership may seem to be insuperable barriers to progress but it would be wrong to overlook the Chinese ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources. David Bonavia reports.

China's history since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 has been mainly a search for political stability and for improvements in the living standards of the common people.

At the 12th congress of the Communist Party last year, large numbers of aged revolutionary leaders in Peking were shunted sideways onto special advisory bodies, and younger people were brought on to play more active roles in administration and policy-making.

In the provinces, however, progress towards the reduction of gerontocracy has been slower. The Communist Party, with some 40 million members, is still having difficulty dealing with the estimated 16 million of them who joined during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) and who are no longer considered politically reliable, or who are dishonest or inefficient.

The outstanding elder statesman of the post-Mao era is Mr Deng Xiaoping, who still controls China's destinies despite relinquishing formal tenure of his posts as Deputy Chairman of the party and Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Deng's right-hand man is Mr Zhao Ziyang, the capable and energetic Prime Minister who has contributed much to the progress of economic reform - basically a reversion to cash incentives for workers on farms, in factories and in offices and shops.

This process has entailed a return to family farming in the rural areas, and a large degree of freedom for the peasants to decide what they will grow and to whom they will sell what they do not eat themselves.

After fulfilling the production contracts with local organs, the peasants can sell their produce on the free market both in the countryside and in adjacent rural areas.

Pleased by the success of this

message of raising peasant incomes and foreign exchange earnings from cash crops, the leadership has recommended that requisition enterprises work out suitable versions of the "responsibility systems", as the reforms are called. Laundries and even Peking opera troupes have implemented a system of income-sharing based on earnings.

It remains to be seen whether such methods of economic growth, which some people in China denounce as "capitalist", will succeed across the board, or whether the delays and red tape of bureaucratic socialism will defeat them.

Besides the move towards a weeding-out of the party ranks, which has met strong opposition from entrenched interests in the provinces and the armed forces, the Party is supposed to be in process of preparing its ideological work, and moral exhortations to the nation at large, from its previous role as the linchpin of administration and control at all levels.

Officials who previously held high rank both in the party and in the organs of government are being encouraged to opt for one or other of them. In matters of day-to-day administration, the party is supposed to let the recently formed People's Congresses work through the organs of government, intervening only when absolutely necessary.

Progress towards this ideal will necessarily be slow, given the reluctance of officials to lose any of their power and to retire in a timely manner so that younger cadres can take more responsibility.

An associated problem is that of the intellectuals - defined as those with degrees, or specialized knowledge - many of whom have not been satisfactorily rehabilitated since the Cultural Revolution and whose abilities are being wasted on low-powered jobs, often in remote areas to which they were exiled under Mao.

The level of tertiary education is still low, and there is a severe shortage of places for school-leavers who want to pursue it. Unless this problem is solved, China will continue to be technologically backward except in a few prestige areas such as nuclear missiles, in which it is anyway greatly outranked by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Equally serious is the problem of unemployment, particularly among young people. Though the authorities gloss this over as "waiting for employment" (only capitalist countries supposedly have "unemployment"), it is creating a generation of sceptical, if not cynical, young people whose ideals and energy are being wasted.

Political ideology has been out of fashion since Mao's death, and the mass of the people are more interested in finding better housing, clothes and consumer goods. Food supplies are adequate if modest, and prone to price rises because of the existence of a free market.

Mao's ideal of continuing "class struggle" under socialism has been rejected by the Deng leadership, which, ironically enough, means a practical reversion to class privilege, both covert and overt.

An official who pulls strings to get his or her offspring into a university will be let off with a reprimand or demotion if the matter is uncovered. A worker or peasant will have no strings to pull.

In practice it is hard to achieve any improvement in one's lifestyle, without "going through the back door", as the Chinese put it. Personal relations and family alliances are often essential for people to further their careers.

The concern expressed by the leadership at Western cultural influences, coming in the wake of more trade and other contacts with the outside world, seem rather exaggerated, and based on an excessively prudish view of morality.

Chinese young people long to travel abroad, but few will ever have the opportunity or the means. Officials on overseas trips are often berated for spending their time sightseeing and sending home colour television sets.

There is small hope of improvements in standards of living if the present population growth of over 1.1 per cent continues. The city dwellers have on the whole accepted the policy of the one-child family, but the peasants, who make up for some four fifths of the population, are still keen to have more children, especially boys.

Girl babies are still widely despised, and recently there have been press condemnations of the practice of female infanticide in the rural areas.

All these problems would seem to place insuperable barriers to progress. But the Chinese have shown their ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources too often in the past to be counted out of the global struggle for prosperity and security.

In public health, China is miles ahead of most other underdeveloped countries, and while there is now greater emphasis on improving research and medical skills, the raising of hygiene standards, pioneered under Mao, has left its mark. The population problem is to some extent the product of falling infant mortality and longer life expectancy.

Nor is China riven by the communal or religious conflicts which devour the energies of so many countries. Clan feuds persist in the most backward areas, and there is unrest among some of the ethnic minorities - especially the Muslims of Xinjiang - but the gradual progress towards universal literacy is an important heritage of the country's unitary culture and written language.

The Government's credit is good with Western firms, and the leadership has succeeded in almost wiping out the budgetary and foreign trade deficits which resulted from overspending in the late 1970s.

Although China is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, its prestige among other Third World countries is high. As the leaders point out, not a single Chinese soldier is stationed on the territory of any other country. The South-East Asian nations, while still wary of their big communist neighbour, regard it as a useful counterweight to the more aggressive and expansionist Vietnam.

Above all, China has gained respect - among those who sympathise with its goals - for its willingness to experiment, and to discard unsuccessful formulae. Its development as a socialist state, China has tested the frontiers of Marxist



Hobby Clark

half of this year to eliminate vestiges of "leftism" - that is, resistance to the new policies - remaining in the party. This should help to extend economic reforms to industry and commerce, where they have come up against recalcitrant middle-level officials.

The private sector is expanding, especially in urban areas. There are 2.6 million individual enterprises in China employing 3,000,000 people with a gross annual turnover of more than 10,000m yuan (about £3,300m), officials say. State-owned and cooperative enterprises are converting to profit-based accounting.

None of these measures can succeed without thorough changes in the pricing and employment systems, but these are finally beginning to crack.

China is adopting a three-tier mixed economy with fixed prices for certain primary commodities and consumer staples, floating prices for a wide range of manufactured goods, including many consumer products, and free prices for farm and rural sideline industry products sold in markets.

This tripartite division parallels the division of the economy into three sectors: compulsory planned, guidance (or non-mandatory) planned, and free market, as described in the report by Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party General Secretary, to the 12th party congress last September.

Equally important changes could finally remove the "iron-ricebowl" system of guaranteed income and employment for urban workers, which has stymied attempts to improve worker productivity. In March the Ministry of Labour and Personnel called for the extension to all areas of the contract employment system, previously applied experimentally in selected enterprises in a few areas. Under this system, the worker and employing organization enter into a contractual relationship, clearly spelling out the duties and rights of both parties.

The scheme allows for flexibility adjusted for productivity in a variety of ways. There is the implicit concept that a worker who fails to satisfy his contractual obligations can be dismissed - a revolutionary concept in a society which until recently accepted, in theory at least, that workers were entitled to their job and pay.

The five-year plan for 1981-1985 outlined by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, in December, calls for modest short-term economic growth, combined with intensive development of the energy industries and transport and a gradual technological overhaul of China's existing industrial enterprises. The aim is to provide a

foundation for more rapid economic growth in the second half of the decade.

Mr Zhao endorsed the open-door policy of expanding foreign trade and encouraging foreign investment in China. Foreign trade is expected to grow by an average of 8.7 per cent a year over the five-year period. Last year it recorded a surplus of 2,800m yuan, but export growth was flat as China finally succumbed to stagnation in world trade and protectionism in the US and other key markets.

The plan anticipates a 3,000m yuan deficit for 1983, with imports growing 25 per cent. Much of the increase will come from technology and equipment needed for China's ambitious modernization programme.

Occidental Petroleum, of the US, announced in March that it had signed an interim agreement with the China National Coal Development Corporation to develop a 15 million tonne-per-year coalmine at Pingshuo in Shanxi province, the location of China's biggest coal reserves. The joint venture will require an investment by Occidental of between £230m and \$300m (about £153m-£200m), which would make Pingshuo by far the biggest foreign investment in China.

About 70 per cent of the output is earmarked for export to Japan, the Philippines and Hongkong. The coal will be moved from Shanxi along newly-upgraded railways to a coal port at Qinhuangdao.

In another important energy project, a nuclear power plant will be built in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone near Hongkong. This will involve contracts for the nuclear power industries of both France and Britain, well-informed sources say, on the basis of future sales of electric power to Hongkong.

Heavy industry grew by a surprising 9.3 per cent last year, far exceeding the 4 per cent range set by planners in late 1981, and this will undoubtedly put further strain on China's already stretched energy supply and transport system.

Light industry grew by only 5.1 per cent, reversing the two-year trend of two figure light industrial growth under the adjustment policies, which had favoured light industry. The policies cut investment costs and heavy industrial growth in order to hold down energy demand and expand the supply of consumer goods.

One factor in the levelling-off of light industrial growth has been the gradual saturation of markets for synthetic textiles and some manufactured goods, especially less-favoured brand names. Gone are the days when it was necessary to queue up to

ECONOMY

Reform is the priority for 1983

Reform has become the keynote of the Chinese economy in 1983.

Record harvests and a surplus on foreign trade last year were a striking endorsement of recent agricultural reforms which gave farmers material incentives to produce more. This has strengthened the hand of the present leadership group, whose economic policies were expressed in the new Constitution and the long-delayed five-year plan (1981-1985) adopted by the National People's Congress last December.

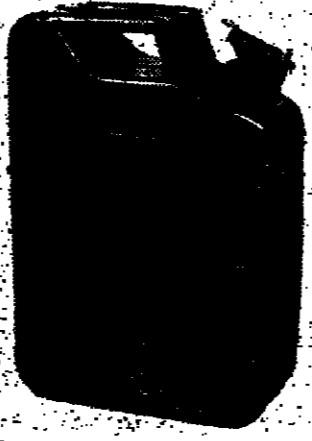
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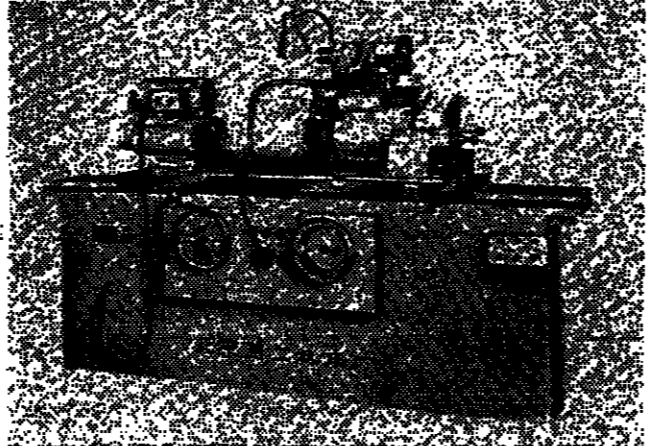
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continued from previous page
buy a watch, bicycle or sewing machine. Town dwellers now want colour, not black-and-white, television sets, and Japanese if possible.
The shift to profit-based accounting has made it easier to identify inefficient producers of shoddy goods, which are now piling up in warehouses. Efficiency-minded bureaucrats are forcing such enterprises to shift to new product lines or close down.

Robert Delfs
China Economy Correspondent
Far Eastern Economic Review

AGRICULTURE Growing more and reaping rewards

Recent structural changes in Chinese agriculture and the end of the drought after nearly three years in north China have contributed to record harvests, which the Chinese hope will be exceeded again this year.
Total agricultural output rose by nearly 7 per cent in 1982, which is the minimum necessary to achieve the leadership's goal of quadrupling national production by the year 2000.

Though the area sown to grain was slightly reduced, the estimated harvest figure is 344 million tonnes, an increase of nearly 6 per cent over 1981.
Cotton totalled 3.37 million tonnes or nearly 14 per cent more than the previous year. Oil-bearing crops were put at 11.2 million tonnes, an increase of almost 10 per cent.

Though better weather helped farmers, Peking claims the record harvests were due, at least partly to the new system of family farming which has motivated the peasants to produce and market more. Leading authorities compare the system with the agricultural cooperatives of the 1950s, which were swept aside by the late Mao Tse-tung's imposition of the people's communes.
The communes, which centralized all rural work from 1958, and were aimed at achieving uniformity of living standards, were severely modified after they failed to keep the country fed in 1961. However, some concepts of egalitarianism persisted in the three-tiered administrative system applied to farming from 1962 until 1980, and were expressed in the system of work points.

Work points were designed to reward hard work and pay stronger and more active peasants more than their fellows. In practice, however, they discouraged personal initiative and denied the peasants the right to enrich themselves through their own efforts.
In most places, work points have been replaced by the system of production contracts which, Chinese economists claim, mobilize the peasants' self-interest by rewarding them not only according to their labour input, but according to the effectiveness and productivity of their work.

At the same time, it is strenuously denied that the new system amounts to redistribution of land, with the peasants becoming owners of the fields they farm. Land, in theory, is still owned by the collective, while the peasants own some tools and technical equipment, and have the right to practice it makes little difference, except that exploitation of poor by rich peasants is ruled out, thus avoiding one of the greatest causes of misery in pre-revolutionary China. The factors working for greater output are purchases of chemical fertilizer, hard work, a modest degree of mechanization, bank loans, and progress in scientific farming.

Agriculture will generally continue to be small scale until the enhanced earnings of the country as a whole can finance the merging of the land tracts now farmed by families, groups of families and sometimes individuals. This makes mechanization economic and avoiding rural unemployment.
The latest trend is towards families specializing in certain types of work considered inferior to grain production during Mao's lifetime - forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, fruit, vegetables, and cash crops. The party and government are actively encouraging peasant families to devote themselves to any one or a combination of such occupations.

The wheel of rural policy has come round so far that now there are even families considered to be "specializing in grain production". Previously, families were expected to spend most of their time and energy making their villages self-sufficient in grain, and ideally selling surpluses to the state. Now the peasants can eat or market their crops freely after delivering their contracted grain

quotas or other produce to the authorities.
The communes themselves have ceased to be centres of political mobilization and control, and are now purely administrative units providing some essential services. The rural township or *xiang* has reverted to its former role as the basic organ of government.

Nothing could better symbolize the turn-about in farm policy than the appointment of a middle-aged intellectual to act as party secretary of the once-famous Dazhai production brigade in Shanxi Province, the model of Maoist austerity and egalitarianism. Mao and his group despised intellectuals, and compared them unfavourably with untutored peasants as builders of socialism. Now it is the peasants who have shown the strongest anti-socialist tendencies, and won their point.

Chinese theorists, of course, would reject this analysis, and say the peasants were as eager as anyone to implement socialism when the time is ripe. But the socialist idea of "paying each according to his work" has failed to make Chinese farming efficient, and the slogan nowadays is "paying each according to his output".
The idea of peasant self-enrichment is no longer thought anti-socialist, but is greatly encouraged, so that there are now peasant families earning considerably more than industrial workers and people in administrative jobs, and a few have even bought their own tractors, which they can use on their own land or hire out for gain.

Chinese farming - for which only 15 per cent of the country's land is suitable - now concentrates on value rather than mass output. Forest and aquatic products, handicrafts, meat and eggs are no longer regarded as luxuries whose cultivation should be assigned a low priority. But the proclaimed goal of improving the protein content of the people's diet will wait on the development of transport and refrigeration to ship beef and lamb from the frontier grasslands to the heavily populated interior. Pork, chicken, beans and fish still supply most of the protein in the Chinese diet.

Export industries, however, are benefiting from the better supply of secondary products, while several million tons of grain are imported each year to satisfy the basic requirement of the foodstuffs in the big coastal cities.

David Bonavia

OIL Getting into the offshore field

The coming year will be critical for China's ambitious plans to develop its offshore oil reserves, which many experts believe could rival those of the North Sea or Alaska and make China a significant force in the world oil market by the 1990s.
In the five years since the Chinese Government first announced it was inviting foreign oil companies to help to explore and develop its virtually uncharted continental shelf, progress has been painstakingly thorough - and slow. Although wells have been drilled around Hainan Island in the south and in the Gulf of Bohai in the north, the start of the major

exploration programme in the South China and Yellow Seas, which alone will tell whether or not China could become an important oil exporting nation, has been postponed again. It is unlikely to begin before the end of this year.
Since August last year the Chinese Government has been evaluating the bids for 43 offshore tracts in the South China Sea and Yellow Sea submitted by the oil companies. Although initial expectations were that the first licences would be awarded by the end of last year, they are now unlikely to be granted much before the middle of the year. There is evidence that the recent fall in world oil prices is causing most of the oil companies involved to hold out for better terms in the all-important contractual arrangements for profit and production sharing between the industry and the newly created Chinese National Oil Corporation.

The outcome of the negotiations - and the drilling that follows them - will be critical for both sides. For the Chinese, development of their offshore oil is far more than just another manifestation of Deng Xiaoping's "open door" economic policy. It holds out the prospect of secure energy supplies for many years, as well as a vital source of badly needed foreign currency earnings.

Oil companies regard offshore China as one of the last great unexplored oil provinces. The seismic surveys they carried out for the Chinese Government as a condition of being able to bid in last summer's auction identified more than 100 large and potentially oil-bearing structures, many of which could produce substantial quantities of oil, if they are confirmed by drilling. The 33 companies which bid for licences include all the leading international companies such as BP, Shell and Exxon.

China has been a significant producer of oil for more than 30 years, having been helped by the Russians to develop the first of her many onshore fields. Present production from the onshore fields is running at about 2 million barrels a day, slightly less than Britain's North Sea output, but sufficient in recent years to meet China's domestic needs and leave a small surplus for export.

Although no official Chinese forecasts are available, there has been speculation among Western analysts that China's onshore fields have recently peaked, underlining the need for new developments. A recent confidential World Bank report forecast that China could become a net importer of oil by 1990, particularly if domestic consumption continued to grow.

What is not in dispute is that China does not have the experience, equipment or financial resources to tackle the far more demanding task of offshore development on its own. This is reflected both in its decision to open the door to Western oil companies, and in its stipulation that the companies should help to lay the groundwork for a strengthened indigenous industry by employing and training Chinese labour for their offshore operations.

As for the financial commitment, Chang Fangting, vice chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of China, said a few months ago that China would need between \$20,000m and \$40,000m (\$13,000m to \$26,000m) to develop its oil and coal resources. Most Western estimates are that sums of this order will be needed over the

next 20 years for oil development alone if the offshore area proves anything like as rewarding as has been predicted.

Estimates of the likely reserves in China's offshore waters are inevitably speculative, but Dr Jack Birks, a former managing director of BP, puts the likely figure at between 20 billion and 40 billion barrels. This is in line with many other estimates, and would make offshore China slightly more productive than the North Sea.

The drilling already done by three oil company consortia, one Japanese, one French and one American, has been patchy, with several oil shows, and a number of "dry holes". These have all been in relatively shallow water, but are not regarded as the best areas on offer.

The waters off the mouth of the Pearl River will attract the greatest industrial interest, and this area was well represented in last summer's auctioned acreage. The total area on offer amounted to some 60,000 square miles, equivalent to the entire United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

The Chinese have taken advice from other oil producing countries, including Norway, about the form and terms of licence agreements. The model agreement produced last year was complex and onerous but not that exacting by international standards, with profits in the early stages being divided 75 per cent to the Chinese Government and 25 per cent to the oil companies.

Two key conditions for China are that all the initial exploration and development costs are paid for by the companies, with the Chinese state oil company taking over once the costs have been repaid out of the oil produced. This is in addition to the stipulations that the companies use Chinese labour and equipment wherever possible.

Jonathan Davis
Energy Correspondent

POPULATION Time to end the baby boom

China's latest Constitution, promulgated on December 4, 1982, proclaims unequivocally that the state "promotes family planning so that population growth may fit the plans for economic and social development". It also notes that "both husband and wife have the duty to promote family planning".

China is one of the few countries to have highlighted and promoted birth control so explicitly in a national Constitution. This comes as no surprise in view of the results, just being released, of China's most recent census, which was conducted in June, 1982.

The figures showed a nation of over 1,008 million people on the mainland of China which could conceivably grow to 1,400 million by the end of the century if peasant families continue to prefer to have three children.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 more than 450 million people have been added to China's population and 40 per cent of this net gain occurred during the baby boom from 1962 to 1972. The results of this boom should be carefully considered in conjunction with the working of the

new marriage law of 1980, which stipulates the minimum legal age of marriage as 20 years for women and 22 for men.

Based on the latest demographic data, up to 13 million marriages annually can be anticipated for each of the remaining years of this decade. Nearly 65 per cent of the population is under 30, and an enormous number of couples is now coming into the marrying age and could produce a child within the first year of marriage.
It is little wonder that the slogans "delay marriage", "delay pregnancy", and "delay for ever having a second child" are seen and heard throughout China today.

There is potential for another enormous baby boom during this decade and well into the 1990s unless a large proportion of young childbearing women can be persuaded, bribed or even coerced into having an only child.

China is expected to increase its population by an additional 15 million in 1983, and in each of the immediate years thereafter. Yet planners suggest that for the next 17 years the annual population increase will have to be kept in the vicinity of 10 to 11 million or lower to achieve their target of a population of 1,200 million by the year 2000. These aims are considered optimistic by many statistical demographers and family sociologists.

To date some 16 million couples throughout China have pledged to have only one child, and some 100 million couples of child bearing age are reported to be active contraceptive users. However, Chinese family planning officials - as well as demographers, believe that it would be necessary for at least 50 million young childbearing couples to pledge to have only one child, and for 200 million couples to use contraceptives if the Government is to achieve its goals for the year 2000.

Short-term goals have been proclaimed to reduce the present 1.4 per cent annual growth to about 1.2 per cent by 1985 and to less than one per cent by 1990.


Unfortunately there are now emerging several unexpected consequences of the birth control programmes which have been in operation during the last few years. One is the increase in infanticide, especially female babies.

In November last year the influential and widely read *China Youth Daily* published an article called "Save the baby girls". In addition to warning parents against such unlawful acts, it noted that "according to statistics a serious imbalance characterised by the ratio of 3:2 between male and female babies that have been born and have survived in the past two years has occurred in some communes".

The newspaper went on to note that "if this phenomenon is not checked immediately, there will be a serious social problem in twenty years' time when a large number of young men will be without spouses".

In his 1981-85 five-year plan speech to the National People's Congress last November, Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, warned rural peasants especially to "change radically the feudal attitude of viewing sons as better than daughters - and regarding more sons as a sign of good fortune". He encouraged the protection of "infant girls and their mothers", and called on Chinese society to "resolutely condemn the criminal activities of female infanticide and maltreatment of the mothers".

Before the one child family confirmed on next page



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Continued from previous page... peasants could grudgingly absorb extra daughters...

Accordingly, the most important of the 1982 census results would perhaps be the discrete abandonment of the ethereal target of under 1,200 million for the year 2000...

Stewart Fraser Professor of Education La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria.

RELIGION

The right to worship in an atheist state

The traditional view that a Chinese was "Confucian in office, Taoist in retirement and Buddhist as death approached"...

guards in the Cultural Revolution. Officially, religion is combated with science in the assumption that it will slowly wither in the face of implacable logic...

Each major religion has a governing association which, in the words of Zhao Puchu, President of the Buddhist Association, "acts as a bridge through which the Government keeps in touch with Buddhist affairs and opinions..."

The Constitution forbids "foreign control" of religion, so relations with believers in the outside world are one of the most delicate issues...

Numbers of adherents are difficult to discover since the estimates of the Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau are very low, and those of outside religious bodies often excessively high...

guess, but some people have claimed that there are up to 100 million. Sadly, there are only a few thousand Taoists left...

Many Chinese still appear to be Buddhist as death approaches, for one of the most flourishing centres is the Nine Flower Mountain in Anhui province...

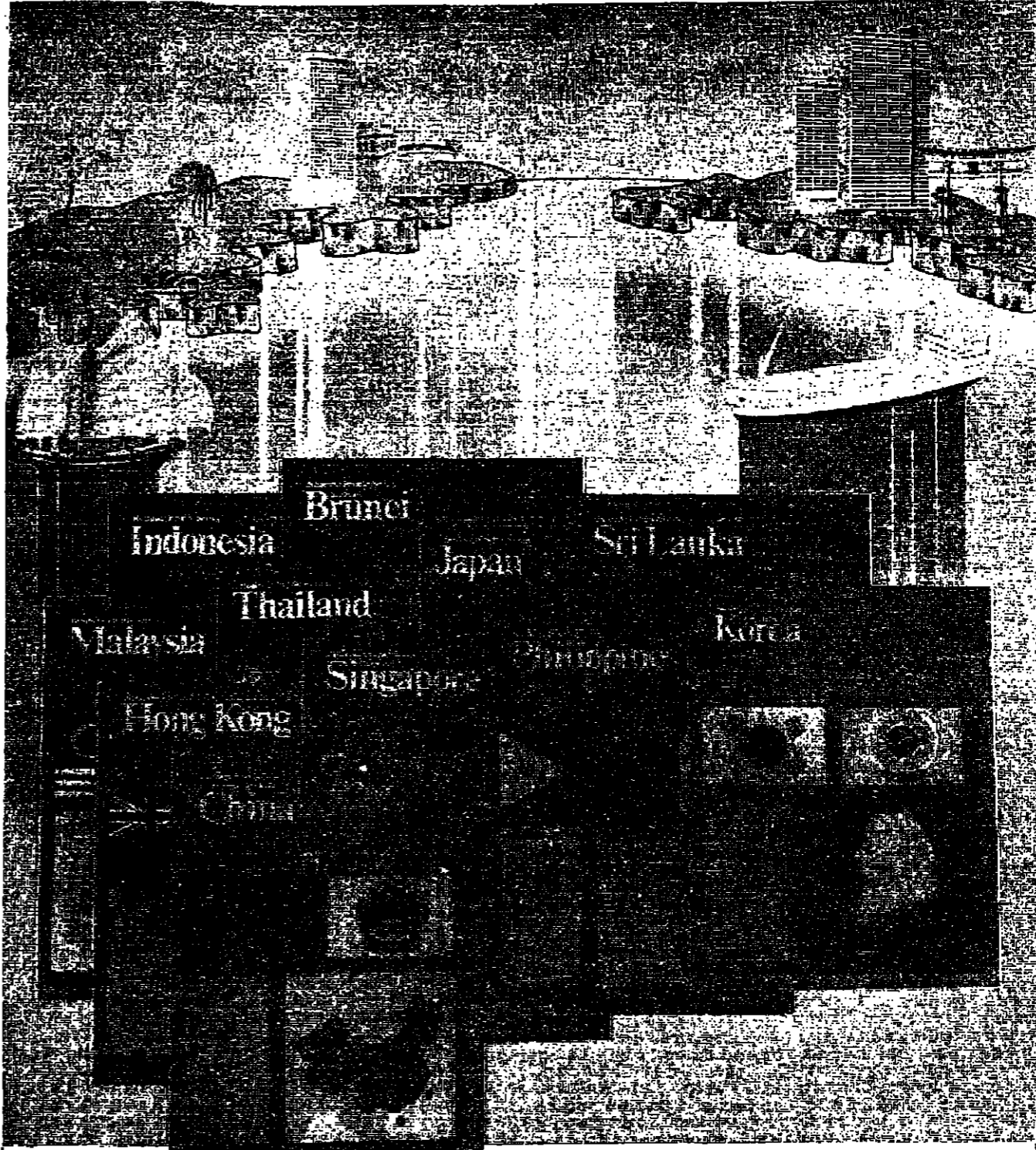
Relatives pay for a mass with up to five monks dressed as Ksitigarbha in splendid red robes and as many as 30 others chanting for four hours...

The majority of China's Muslims live in Chinese Turkestan, on the border with the Soviet Union. They are mainly Uighurs and Kazakhs...

The outside world and the danger of foreign interference have played a major part in the life of the Christian Churches in China. After 1949 the Protestants quickly set up the "three-self patriotic movement"...

Advertisement for Tiger Head and Sea Breeze products, including flashlights and batteries.

Advertisement for Woodfare from Guangong, featuring kitchen tools like sieves and chopping boards.



Advertisement for Hongkong Bank, listing services for various Asian countries and financial products.

Advertisement for China "Double Rhomb" Manicure Sets, showing the product and providing contact information for the manufacturer.

THE ARTS

The Royal Ballet opens in New York

Classicism brilliantly debauching itself

Vari capricci

Metropolitan Opera House

The Royal Ballet appear to have invested Frederick Ashton as their laureate...

opened the programme - and shows English classicism debauching itself.

Wearing a spiv's satin suit and hair slicked into a dyed black quiff, Dowell is Lo Straniero...

Although in Vari Capricci we see a stately side of Ashton that parodies the gentle humour we associate with him...

seeing them perform together was to see time confounded.

Ashton has recruited eight of the Royal Ballet's bright young things as Vari amici...

The costumes for Vari capricci are periodless and oddly incongruous with the set...

Hockney's set, loosely modelled on William Walton's garden in Ischia, was intended as a jeu d'esprit to amuse the composer...

Ashton's choreography faithfully illustrates the various moods of the score: the cool, Gymnopédie-inspired section used for a sinuous Sibley/Dowell pas de deux...

Julie Kavanagh

The author is Arts Editor of Harpers and Queen.



The Travolta touch: Anthony Dowell with Antoinette Sibley

Cinema

Bergman's celebration of life's joy and terror

Fanny and Alexander (15)

Lumière

The Wicked Lady (18)

Leicester Square Theatre

10 to Midnight (18)

Classic Haymarket

A Swarm in May

ICA Children's Cinema

lasts two hours longer - this is destined for BBC television. Bergman's achievement becomes all the more starting when one recalls his previous production, From the Life of the Marionettes...

Characteristic themes dominate the canvases: intimations of mortality, the battle between good and evil, musings on the artist's role...

But it would be unwise to dig for detailed parallels in a film so charged with mystic and religious issues...



First view of Bertil Guve as Alexander

bishop's house, shot by Nykvist with striking clarity. Later, the tone changes again as Fanny and Alexander are conveyed to the antique shop of a Jewish family friend...

and likely. Time and space do not exist. On a flimsy ground of reality, imagination spins out and weaves new patterns.

make a contemporary equivalent. He has done so, moreover, with much of the original dialogue, which pours out of the hapless cast...

Ten years ago, Charles Bronson's vehicle 10 to Midnight would have been directed by Michael Winner...

Far from Los Angeles walking streets, English cathedral choirboys intone in Latin, bees buzz in hives, source of the wax used for altar candles...

Geoff Brown

Opera

Fidelio Sadler's Wells

Here at last is a Fidelio that makes good, strong, simple sense. Jonathan Miller's production for Kent Opera, new last October, comes to London with the same cast and the same style of solid dramatic involvement...

Terese Cahill is also right in the spirit of the thing as Leonora. This is not a part she would wish to undertake...

The tone of the orchestra is not often on the same level of straightforwardness. Rather Roger Norrington conducts a fiery account of the score...

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Twelfth Night Stratford

Quite a deal of poison has been seeping into this play over the past few years, but John Caird's production is the first I have seen that projects Twelfth Night as an all-out dark comedy...

Ilyria in this version contracts to a love shrine. Robin Don (making his Stratford debut) offers a gloomy rock-strewn promontory flanked by an overgrown gateway to Olivia's estate...

What emerges in this setting is a tragicomic of erotic errors. All those involved in it are possessed and hurried on to a fate-over which they have no control...

official, every bit as status-conscious as Malvolio, who characteristically dusts the tree stump before sitting down.

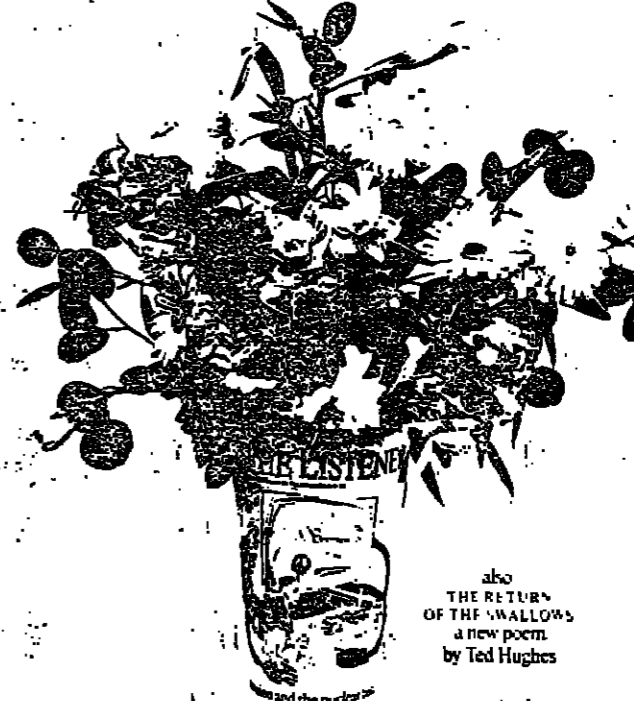
Sir Andrew is obviously a non-starter, but that news would be wasted on Daniel Massey, his face breaking into pathetically eager smiles at every sight of the icy Olivia...

Most pitiful of all is Emrys James's Malvolio, a strutting velvet-uniformed grotesque who sheds all his self-love once his mistress seems to be within reach...

Of the non-lovers, the most interesting is Richard O'Callaghan's Feste. We have grown used to seeing Feste as the soul of Twelfth Night...

Irving Wardle

The Best-of-the-Bunch is back!



also THE RETURN OF THE WALLONS a new poem by Ted Hughes

Not for nothing is The Listener well-known as 'The best written, least partisan, and sweetest-smelling weekly magazine on the news-stand'...

Peter Fiddick: Television and the Nuclear Issue. Robert Fox on his love affair with Italy. John Cole on Election Fever.

THE LISTENER

Television

Intelligent and convincing case

That recent television soap opera World War III seems to have provoked more anxiety than John Pilger's anti-nuclear diatribe to which last night's The War About Peace (Central) was the riposte...

Our fears were by at least momentarily stilled by Max Hastings, who made the not unimportant point that our perceptions of nuclear war have in large measure been formed by film and television spectacles...

wishful thinking. No wonder it has become a favourite with novelists. Mr Hastings's own film, although clearly designed to "balance" Mr Pilger's, did not suffer from an excess of zealotry or wishful thinking...

There has been in recent years a proliferation of documentaries concerned with the perils of nuclear war, but "overkill" for once is valuable. The more excessively conscious we are of the dangers the better...

perils of nuclear war, but "overkill" for once is valuable. The more excessively conscious we are of the dangers the better perception of the issues involved, and of that enemy of which the "arms race" is an expression...

Peter Ackroyd

Concert

Sinfonietta/Pay Queen Elizabeth Hall/Radio 3

Early Britten is in favour. After the wonderful revelations of the pre-Op 1 Four French Songs, and the record including that cycle which Simon Rattle conducted, there seems to be a run on the 1932 Phantasy for string quartet and the little "Alia Marcia" for string quartet...

The players were confident, a touch too confident in the over-emphatic flute solos and a little loose of rhythm, but the twin larks ascending in the second-movement variations were beautifully ethereal, and the slow emergence of the bassoon solo out of the intense climax was well handled...

So did the music. Indeed, Britten's Nocturne of 1958 sounded positively somnolent in Philip Langridge's sweetly

tasteful performance; though the timbre was always pleasing, he seemed unable to invest the quieter moments with real intensity...

Lucy Beaumont, from 20 years earlier, is far more successful in this respect, and Langridge seemed to respond to his rhapsodic conviction by opening up his voice to great effect...

The centrepiece of this concert was to have been a new work by the Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen, whose Wintermarch the Sinfonietta gave earlier this season...

So did the music. Indeed, Britten's Nocturne of 1958 sounded positively somnolent in Philip Langridge's sweetly

Nicholas Kenyon

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

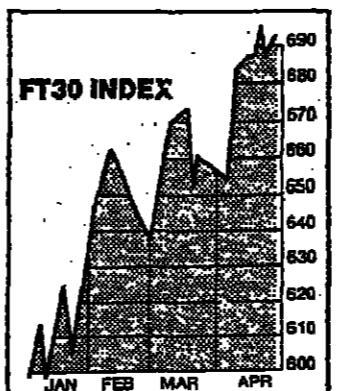
ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 22. Closing Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

US buyers flock back

of stock market prices sharply higher as blue chips established double figure gains.

with big American interests. 17p dearer at 231p. Recovery stocks also benefited.

sliding to 340p, but recovered along with the rest of the market to close unchanged at 355p still reflecting hopes for big repairs from the Hanover Trade Fair.



Good two-way trade developed in Commercial Union, Britain's biggest insurance offer with the shares ending the day up at 149p, despite Tuesday's report in The Times of increasing scepticism over the

Albert Fisher's acquisition of Wentworth Import and Export, the fruit and vegetable wholesaler with Chilean interests, has been completed.

jumped 14.8. At one point it was up 17.3. 4.5 short of the magical 700 barrier that it had been widely predicted the index would hit this week.

US support boosted several of the leaders with Bechem up 12p at 413p and BOC Group.

Shares jumped to a record high of 470p in response to the chairman's optimistic comments. Brokers estimated that up to five million shares changed hands following the speech by Mr John Harvey-Jones.

Earlier this month Scottish brokers Wood Mackenzie upgraded their full year profits by £102m to £462m on the basis of an improved performance from the pharmaceutical division and reduced losses in petrochemicals.

Yesterday Mr Harvey-Jones confirmed that pharmaceuticals had turned in a god performance enabling the group to concentrate on further rationalization among the loss makers. The chairman's words were just the tonic the market needed, carrying far more weight than the Confederation of British Industry or any Government minister. Jobbers already short

group's chances of making the most from any recovery in the US market.

Lloyd's broker Minet Holdings slipped 2p to 136p in the wake of St Paul of Minnesota's decision to pick up a further 3.8 million shares, taking its stake to just under 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, brokers Cazenove bought a further 1.6 million shares in Thomas Tilling on behalf of their clients, BTR, at 189.5p.

Big speculation was good for 3p on Debenhams at 124p in the belief that Mr Gerald Ronson and his Bassishaw consortium would bid for the group if its offer for UDS fell through. Mr Ronson already owns about 1 million shares which he bought through one of his subsidiaries

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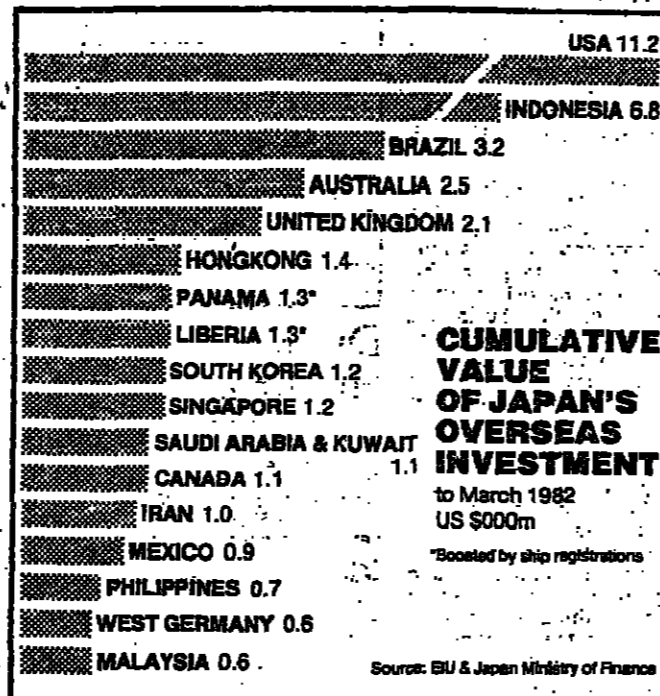
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مركزاً من راجل

After success with TVs and cars, foreign investment is target, says Graham Searjeant

At last, a Japanese export from which Britain can benefit



The second phase was to transfer production of goods that needed cheap labour to be competitive at a time when Japanese wages caught up with the traditional advanced industrial countries.

After the oil price shock and the general explosion of commodity prices in the early seventies, MITI went through another major rethink. The old heavy industries like steel, shipbuilding and petrochemicals, which had voracious appetites for raw materials (as well as Japan's scarce industrial land) would have to be run down. Instead, Japan started to export them to new bases abroad near the sources of the raw materials in order to concentrate on new high added-value, and high technology industries at home.

As it turned out, the big Japanese trading houses, with their unique combination of finance, trading and production, proved ideal for this process. Japanese companies are taking a strong lead over other industrial countries especially the US, at these big, "technology transfer" projects, probably because they are more flexible at joint venture deals with the host countries, better at providing low-cost comprehensive financial packages and undaunted at the prospect of organizing the huge infrastructure investments needed to make such projects work.

Indeed, the project ambitions of the top Japanese groups know no bounds. In 1977, the Mitsubishi Research Institute put together proposals for up to a dozen huge projects ranging from a New Silk Road to a tunnel across the Straits of Gibraltar and the damming of the Bering Strait, packaged as the Global Infrastructure Fund.

Most of this investment went to countries rich in resources or cheap labour. Interests in other advanced countries were largely confined to services, like the banks in London, or to local back-up for manufactured exports.

But since the post-1979

slump, MITI's priorities have had to change again as a result of the upsurge in protectionism in general and the increasingly shrill attacks on Japan's exports to the US and EEC countries in particular. The Japanese had three choices: restrain exports, increase imports or invest in local production. It was not a hard choice.

A fifth of Japanese exports are already subject to increasingly tough voluntary restraint agreements. And it is hard for even a willing Japanese government to guarantee that its highly nationalistic consumers will lap up foreign manufactures, however much they may now buy American basic foods.

This has led to a significant switch to invest in other leading industrial countries and a much greater emphasis on building manufacturing plants in its biggest markets. As the EIU report suggests, "the image of Japan as a force for the revitalization of sectors of industry in the West will go some way to sugaring the pill as

have clearly formed an attachment for South Wales. In the latest official survey, the main Japanese complaints centred on their children learning English with Welsh accents and on the paucity of Japanese restaurants outside London.

Given this, Britain has overwhelming language advantages for the Japanese, who learn English at school but are, on the whole, no better linguists than ourselves.

Britain, on the other hand, has yet to decide how enthusiastically it wishes to form an alliance with Japanese companies as their platform for the European market.

There are clearly doubts. After all, the Government extols the value of our investing abroad as a platform for our own exports and what is true for us must also be true for Japan. This, more than anything, has so far dogged the crucial proposed Datsun car plant, biggest of 15 to 20 extra investment projects now in the pipeline. British component makers fear Japan will do them out of business by importing, while car business looking at the UK market fear that Japanese-owned production will simply replace their own.

The evidence is inconclusive. But it does suggest that in some industries at least, Japanese capacity abroad replaces that at home rather than local factories. And, with Britain's position as a fairly small segment of the European market, extra imports into Britain from Japan are likely to be outweighed by Anglo-Japanese exports to the continent. Sony, for instance, has won a Queen's award for export. Imports are only a threat if you think in the narrow terms of bilateral trade.

But it is vital that Britain should make its mind up whether or not to back Anglo-Japanese enterprise to the hilt. Italy failed to ban imports of British-made Sony television sets.

But the Triumph/Honda incident was a reminder that France and Italy in particular will demand impossibly high local content for cars and many other products if they are to be classed as made in the EEC for tariff purposes. If we are to get the benefit of Japanese investment, Britain will have to lobby hard to protect its new Japanese-aided export markets in Europe.

Japanese Overseas Investment, the new challenge by Felicity Marsh, Economist Intelligence Unit, £45.

The paradox of oil policies

Those who are partial to current affairs quizzes might care to try this question. Which leading politician delivered himself a few days ago of the following remarks: "The market place is no textbook model, no abstract set of equations. It is a bustling imperfect real world of conflict and cooperation, of risk and reward, of expectations and uncertainties".

Hardly profound words, perhaps, but ones that would do - at a pinch - as the rationale for a left-wing government's policy of intervention in industry. The fact that they were spoken by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, a Tory whose devotion to the free market has previously been thought to know few bounds, makes them rather unusual.

But then the political complexities and diplomatic niceties of the international oil market - the "imperfect real world" to which Mr Lawson was referring - has thrown up quite a few paradoxes in recent weeks, all stemming from the deep and uncomfortable ambivalence with which this Government regards North Sea oil.

Ever since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) craftily, and unkindly, dumped responsibility for the future oil prices in Britain's lap by challenging us to wreck their precarious oil pricing agreement by bringing down the price of North Sea oil, Mr Lawson has been in the thick of it. In rapid order he has found himself having to justify and defend a series of propositions which appear to be out of kilter with his political instincts.

High oil prices may have been the economic scourge of the 1970s, but it would be damaging if they were now to fall as sharply as they once rose. Mr Lawson repeated at an absorbing session this week of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The Government believes that market forces should, and do, prevail in the oil business as in every other, but it also has a legitimate right to exercise its influence on the

interests of oil price stability by "smoothing out" the imperfections of the market. And although the Government came to power determined to abolish the British National Oil Corporation, the state-owned trading company has a useful role to play and has presented "an object lesson" in promoting stability in recent weeks.

Whatever they might think of the wisdom of the course he has adopted, few observers can fail to be impressed by the delicate way in which the Energy Secretary has picked a path through the appalling complexities posed by the conflicting demands of the oil companies, Saudi Arabia, other Opec members, the Reagan Administration and (not least) the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is probably not being too cynical to suggest that the Government might have taken a more realistic view of Opec's challenge if an election was not coming up.

Although what happens next to world oil prices is still not certain, it is already clear that some review of BNOC's role is called for. It is abundantly evident that the participation agreements designed to guarantee Britain's oil supplies in times of shortages leave the corporation painfully exposed when the market is awash and prices are falling.

If BNOC had not existed, Opec would not have been able to lumber the Government with the threat of being held responsible for an oil price crash; and if it did not exist, it seems unlikely that Mr Lawson, whatever his views about the consequences of a price crash, would have decided to invent it.

Having got the creature, however, it would seem foolish to abolish it now, when it has proved it can play a constructive and apparently effective role in communicating the Government's wishes on the oil price front, wishes that the Government has shown it wants to impart.

Jonathan Davis

APPOINTMENTS

Turner & Newall changes top roles

With the post of group managing director lapsing at Turner & Newall, Mr R. D. N. Somerville will deputize for the chairman, Sir Frank Tombs, as chief executive.

In other Turner & Newall changes, Mr D. W. Hills has been appointed chairman of TBA Industrial Products and T-Glass Fibres; Mr D. G. Carruthers, chief executive of Ferodo, has been appointed a divisional chairman and chairman of Ferodo, Storeys Decorative Products and Extrudex Products. Mr Carruthers and Mr Hills have been appointed directors of T & N Materials Research.

Mr H. D. S. Hardie, personnel and external relations director of Turner & Newall, has been appointed chairman of the company's Nigerian subsidiaries.

Mr Philip Massey has been appointed president of Royal Worcester Spode (Canada). Mr William Sherman has been appointed vice president, finance and administration, of Royal Worcester Spode Inc.

Mr Peter Woodward, has been appointed deputy chief executive of Intasun Leisure Group in addition to his role as financial director.

Mr David Marris, a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados, has been appointed chairman and an executive director of the Caribbean board from July 16. Mr Bernard Clarke has been appointed an executive director from April 29.

Mr Henry Prevezzer has been appointed a non-executive director of Forward Technology Industries.

Mr Hugh Lang has been named a member of the Design Council until December 31, 1985. He is chairman of both P-E International and Redman Heenan International.

Mr Alan Permain has been appointed divisional director of Towco, and will be responsible for maintenance, smaller works and energy management systems. Mr Eddie Molnar has been appointed divisional director responsible for the electrical division.

BUILDING PRODUCTS - HEAT EXCHANGE - DRINKS DISPENSE - FLUID POWER
SPECIAL PURPOSE VALVES - GENERAL ENGINEERING - REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

Some upturn in our confidence

Sir Robert Clark, Chairman, reports on a year of mixed fortunes:

A somewhat depressing first half was followed by more encouragement in the second. In total, trading profits amounted to £33.5 million, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1981 figure, but higher interest charges meant that profit before tax fell by £1.9 million to £21.9 million. 46 per cent of total turnover was sold abroad, 30 per cent being overseas manufactures which generated 44 per cent of trading profit, a figure which underlines both the harshness of the trading climate in the UK and the validity of our policy of increasing our overseas involvement. Our balance sheet remains strong.

Group external sales by product areas

Product Area	Value (£m)
Drinks dispense	£67m
Building products	£146m
Refined and wrought metals	£162m
Heat exchange	£73m
Fluid power	£57m
General engineering	£87m
Special-purpose valves	£41m

Cornelius - World Leader in Drinks Dispense

IMI has now established itself as a world leader in the design, manufacture and sale of dispensing equipment for draught soft drinks, beer, juices, cider, wine and other beverages. The IMI Cornelius Group has a global annual turnover approaching £100 million, with twelve manufacturing sites in the USA, Canada, Brazil, Spain, Germany and the UK.

Group external sales overseas

Year	Sales by overseas companies (£ million)	Direct exports from the UK (£ million)
1977	87	62
1978	98	99
1979	106	115
1980	111	153
1981	91	104
1982	138	102

Sir Robert summarises the steps taken to combat the recession, and the Company's prospects, thus:

"We certainly have become fitter to survive in the current world of low activity and hard competition. We have significantly cut many forms of cost; we have reduced our dependence on products most vulnerable in times of recession; we have strengthened our position in business areas of higher growth and added value; and we have increased our overseas involvement. In an expanding economy I am confident of our ability to prosper."

IMI means more than metal

The Annual Report has been independently surveyed by IMI's activities. If you would like a copy please write to the Secretary, IMI plc, P.O. Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 29 JANUARY 1983

"Since Woolworth Holdings assumed control of F W Woolworth last November, my confidence has increased in the potential that this imaginative acquisition has presented"

John Beckett, Chairman.

Trading Results

The trading profit for F W Woolworth and its subsidiaries increased by nearly 24% to £58.4 million. The main part of the increase was attributable to B & Q, our DIY chain.

Profits from the sale of properties were £16.2 million, virtually the same as the previous year.

The resultant profit before tax for F W Woolworth for the year was £47.4 million (before extraordinary items of £6.8 million) compared with £38.3 million the previous year.

The pro-forma annualised income statement for Woolworth Holdings shows that the profit before tax and extraordinary items would have been £20.5 million if Woolworth Holdings had owned F W Woolworth for a full year.

The Future

For the longer-term future, I am confident the Company can look forward with optimism.

We have to identify what the customer wants and those wants that we aim to satisfy; we have to establish a clear position for Woolworth in the High Street in which it can excel.

I am paying particular attention to management and organisation. The ambiguities must be removed and clear objectives set for each part of the organisation. We have already taken some steps to divide the group into more manageable units.

The First Steps

On assuming control, a thorough review of Woolworth's operations was put in hand. A number of matters which prompted immediate action soon became apparent:

- We have instituted a full scale review of the merchandise range to eliminate unnecessary lines and an assessment of our prices to ensure we become competitive.
- We introduced a new organisation structure in the field and reduced the size of our head office.
- We commenced a programme to reduce excessive stocks.
- Two relatively new trading ventures, namely Shoppers World and 21st Century, were unlikely to become profitable. Action is being taken.
- We stopped property disposals until our review of the business is complete.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 19 May. Non-shareholders who would like to receive a copy should write to Nigel Whittaker, Company Secretary, Woolworth Holdings plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.



WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS plc

Greater efficiency and reduced costs led to improved margins, resulting in record profits in an eventful and exciting year. Operational changes were made and important new initiatives taken for the future.

'A year of achievement and change' at London Brick

Jeremy Rowe, CBE, Chairman

EXTRACTS FROM THE CIRCULATED STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

For London Brick the year was one of achievement and change. Achievement because we reaped the rewards of steps taken earlier to cut costs and increase efficiency. Change because during 1982 we changed the way in which we operated and took important new initiatives for the future.

The pre-tax profit of £15,328,000 was 37% up and was a record for the Company. It was obtained on only a modest increase in turnover and at a time of continuing recession in most of our markets.

The recovery came from concentrating production on a smaller number of more efficient works. As a result, margins benefited from lower cost and greater efficiency.

At the half year London Brick PLC became the parent company for the Group and three new operating companies were formed - London Brick Engineering Limited, London Brick Property Limited and London Brick Products Limited. Within the old parent company we had two departments originally formed to service our brick production which had grown to important activities in their own right. To make the best use of assets it seemed sensible to make them into profit centres. At the same time the brickmaking activity had to be allowed to organise itself so that its management could concentrate solely on the efficient production, marketing and distribution of their products.

The change in corporate structure does not imply that we are seeking to become an industrial conglomerate and two new initiatives taken during the year related to widening our interests in the brick industry.

The first of these was our decision to invest in Brick and Pipe Industries of Australia, a company we know well and whose interests are largely similar to our own.

Secondly, we negotiated an agreed merger with Istock Johnsons PLC, the only major independent brickmaker in the non-bleton field. The merger proposal has lapsed because, following a counter bid from Redland PLC, the two offers were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. We shall not know the outcome until later this year.

We have once more benefited from the loyalty and good sense of our management and staff. Might I take this opportunity of thanking them most sincerely for their contribution to what has proved a successful year.

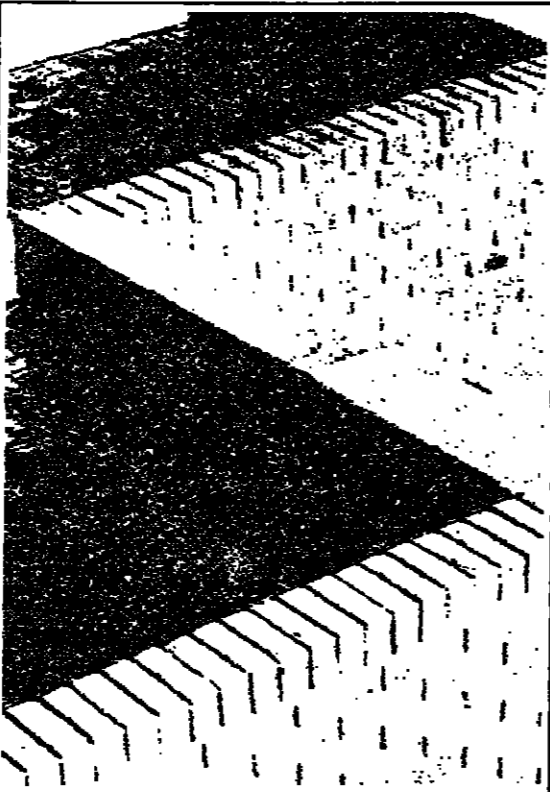
Jeremy Rowe CBE

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS.

London Brick Products

Under the new structure the manufacturing and marketing of brick, and other clay products passed to London Brick Products Limited, the largest of the new subsidiaries.

An increase in housing starts showed through in both the private and public sectors but the growth



in private commercial building was compensated for by a further reduction in industrial building.

Stocks are now at a more reasonable level to match both current deliveries and the expectation of a higher level of demand in 1983.

Three new bricks were added to the Oxford Clay fletton range and additional products have been added to the Clockhouse range which provides bricks of a traditional, handmade appearance at a competitive price.

London Brick Landfill

During 1982 Landfill consolidated its position at the forefront of waste management services and land reclamation. Further progress was made in long-term negotiations with Local Authorities and other organisations which could provide considerable scope for expansion in years to come.

London Brick Property

London Brick Property Limited was formed to own and manage all London Brick lands, apart from those permanently occupied by other subsidiaries. It is charged with achieving maximum

potential from this resource by overseeing its use from initial agriculture through excavation and restoration to its permanent after-use for agriculture or other purposes.

The company's subsidiary, London Brick Farms achieved a satisfactory year continuing to gain benefit from advances in agricultural technology and despite difficult weather had a sound and encouraging start to 1983.

London Brick Engineering

The skills and resources of London Brick's engineering section were made available to external customers following the formation of London Brick Engineering.

Since its involvement with the design and construction of a brick factory for the Middle East, it has actively sought similar contracts and is negotiating for a contract to design and build a £5.5 million brick factory for Swaziland.

Its unique skills were also employed to provide a wide variety of services to London Brick Products.

Banbury Alton

Banbury Alton made progress. The programme of changes which had been planned was implemented and losses were reduced.

The largest subsidiary of Banbury Alton has continued to suffer from losses in its Home Improvement Division. It has been decided to accept an offer for this company which will relieve us of a business which has been a burden to the Group for a number of years.

Croydex

Despite depressed market conditions both at home and abroad, the company continued to make steady progress and had a satisfactory year.

London Brick Australia

During 1982 we acquired a 19.99% holding in Brick and Pipe Industries Limited, the leading brickmakers in Victoria and South Australia. They are a well-managed and efficient company and one with which London Brick is proud to be associated.

Form for requesting a copy of the 1982 Annual Report, including fields for Name, Address, and Postcode.

Study backs Treasury Select Committee

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

The Treasury Select Committee must be judged a success, even though there is little sign that the Treasury has significantly modified its actions as a result of the committee's recommendations, a study concludes today.

The study, by Mr John Hills, formerly on the committee's staff and now with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, says that of the 19 reports produced by the committee in its three years' existence about half received no written reply, notably those on macro-economic policy.

None of the committee's reports has been debated in the Commons, though Mr Hills points out that only five reports from all the select committees - 3 per cent of the total - have been debated since the new committee system was set up in 1979.

But Mr Hills, writing in the institute's journal, Fiscal Studies, says this does not mean the Treasury Select Committee has been ineffective. Its role as a publishing house of evidence extracted both from inside and outside Government is alone enough to justify its existence.

In addition the committee is able to put across important issues on political agenda.

Turn Venice's seaweed into methane, says ENI

From John Earle, Rome

The seaweed which clogs up areas of the Venice lagoon, killing fish, could be recycled in a biogas process and give the city enough methane for domestic cooking and heating needs, according to Signor Gabriele Petazzoni of the state-owned ENI group.

He said: "already, from the end of 1984, we will be in a position to transform 10,000 cubic metres of biogas a day into methane."

Signor Petazzoni, an executive of ENI's subsidiary Agip Nucleare-Crista, said this was based on a £300 (£135,000) study, financed partly by the European Community, which had been underway since 1981.

A pilot processing project has begun and the possibilities are also being studied of transforming seaweed into fertilizer and animal feed.

"It still needs a great deal of research, however," Signor Petazzoni added.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices and market data, including columns for various stocks and their prices.

Base Lending Rates

Table of base lending rates for various banks and financial institutions.

Advertisement for TOMATIN DISTILLERS PLC, including details about a 7% cumulative convertible preference shares issue of £1 each at par.

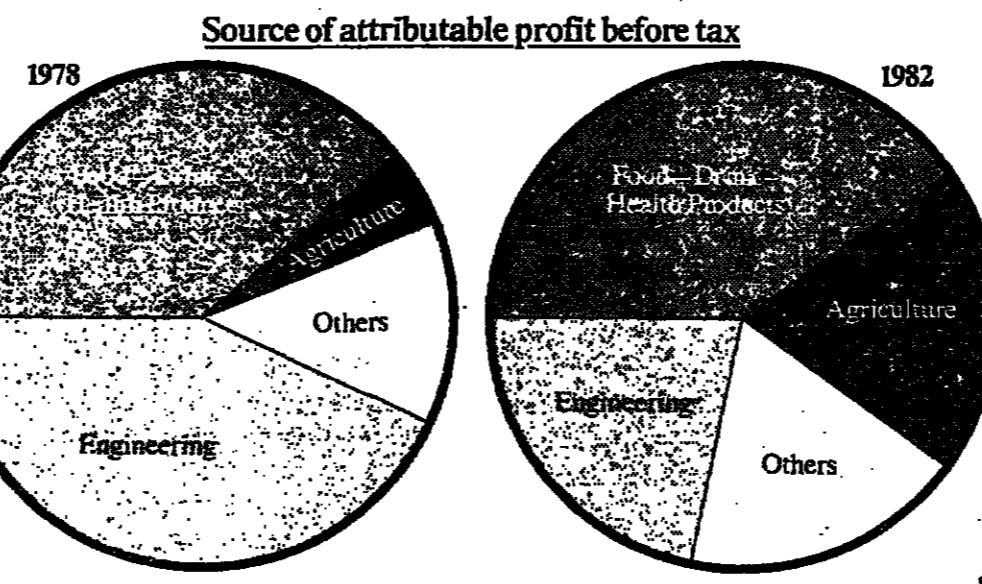
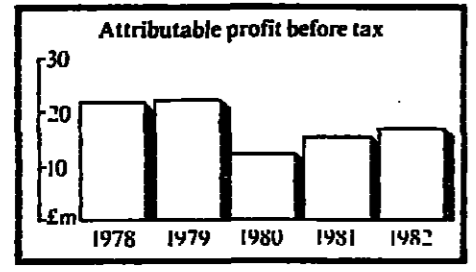
Our five-year progress reflects the growing importance of agriculture

Points made by the Chairman, Michael H Caine

Booker McConnell's pre-tax profit in 1982 was 11% higher than in 1981. Engineering achieved a marked return to profitability and there was welcome growth in profits from Agriculture. A weak performance in the cash and carry business was the main reason for the poor profit in Food Distribution.

Divisional Performance

In the Engineering Division, Plenty achieved a major profit increase. SPP's profit was higher despite depressed market conditions. Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild benefited from increased National Coal Board expenditure; its sale to Dobson Park Industries was announced in March 1983. The three consumer-oriented divisions suffered from the effects of the recession on demand. In Health Products and Spirits and Liqueurs market shares were maintained by a high level of marketing expenditure. Budgen improved but the setback in food wholesaling was serious; 1983 will see aggressive marketing, improved productivity, reduced stocks and better use of management information.



In Agriculture, the 45% interest in Ibec had a healthy increase in profit. Arbor Acres successfully withstood the effects of the US recession on the chicken broiler breeding industry. The shareholding in Ibec was increased to 80% in April 1983. In response to declining cargoes to Guyana, Booker Line's four owned ships were laid up pending sale. Using smaller, chartered ships, its westbound service continues profitably. The slight profit increase in Authors' was mainly due to Agatha Christie's continuing popularity.

Prospects for 1983

In Engineering profit in 1983, without Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild, may be lower. In Food Distribution profit will be higher but profitability in the cash and carry business may not be back to an acceptable rate until 1984.

Table comparing 1982 and 1981 performance metrics: Turnover, Attributable profit before tax, Earnings per share, and Dividends per share.

Health Products should return to the 1981 level but in Spirits and Liqueurs the strength of Tia Maria may not entirely make up for the weakness of the UK dark rum market. Agriculture's contribution will be larger due to the increased shareholding, although a significant increase in Ibec's profit is not expected. The recovery in Shipping should be maintained. In total, a further improvement in profit is expected in 1983.



Form for requesting a copy of the 1983 report, including fields for Name, Address, and Postcode.

House of Lords

No trade-dispute immunity for secondary action

Wife-swap pact unenforceable

Merkur Island Shipping Corporation v Laughton and Others
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman
[Speeches delivered April 21]

The immunity from action in tort granted by section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 in respect of acts done in furtherance of a trade dispute was withdrawn by section 17(1) of the Employment Act 1980 when a person, in furtherance of a trade dispute, induced or procured employees of an employer who was not a party to the dispute to break their contracts of employment and such breach necessarily constituted an interference in the performance of a contract for the supply of services because the procuring of the breaches of contracts of employment in such circumstances amounted to "secondary action" within the meaning of section 17(2) of the 1980 Act and did not satisfy the requirements of section 17(3).

The provisions in question were regarded as lacking in the clarity required for legislation dealing with industrial relations. The House of Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Dillon) on November 4, 1982 (The Times, November 5, 1982), whereby that court dismissed an appeal by appellants, officers of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) from an order of Mr Justice Parker, of July 23, 1983 granting interlocutory injunctions to effect requiring them to lift the blocking of the vessel Hoegh Apapa at Liverpool, which had arisen in the course of a trade dispute between the owners of the vessel and the ITF.

claims in tort for damages under two alternative heads: (1) damages for deliberate interference with and/or threat to the performance of a time charter with Leif Hoegh & Co; and (2) damages for deliberate interference with and/or threat to the performance of such interference and/or threat being brought about by unlawful means, namely wrongfully procuring and/or inducing and/or threatening to procure or induce (persons) concerned with the free passage or working of the ship.

It was under (1) that Mr Justice Parker held that the shipowners had shown a cause of action at common law in respect of which it was unlikely that ITF would succeed in establishing immunity from liability under section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 as modified by section 17 of the Employment Act 1980.

With regard to stage 1, the court found that the shipowners were interfering with the shipowners under head (1) of the writ since the blocking of the vessel was interfering with unlawful means with the performance of a contract. The court found that the shipowners were interfering with the shipowners under head (2) of the writ since the blocking of the vessel was interfering with unlawful means with the performance of a contract.

of actionable interference with contractual rights by "blackening" were stated by Lord Justice O'Connor in *D.C. Thomson & Co Ltd v News (1952) 1 Ch 646*: "First, that the person charged with actionable interference knew of the existence of the contract and intended to procure its breach; secondly, that the person so charged acted deliberately and unequivocally to procure or induce the breach; and, thirdly, that the person so charged acted in order to break the contract of employment with the intent mentioned; thirdly, that the employees so procured, induced or procured did in fact break their contracts of employment; and, fourthly, that breach of the contract forming the alleged subject of interference ensued as a necessary consequence of the breaches by the employees concerned of their contracts of employment."

Under section 17(1) two conditions had to be satisfied in order to bring an act within that section. First, by section 17(1)(a), the subsisting contract of the non-performance of a primary obligation was procured had not to be a contract for the performance of a contract which was not a contract of employment.

The House of Lords, on one of two preliminary issues that had been ordered to be tried in an action for the Attorney General of New Zealand seeking *inter alia* the recovery of a valuable Maori wood carving that had been exported from New Zealand allegedly in breach of the Maori Cultural Property Act 1962, held on April 21 that the on true construction of that Act and of the Customs Act 1966, an article exported in those circumstances could only be "forfeited to her Majesty" in the meaning of section 12(1) of the 1962 Act, if it was seized by the Crown, and that since no seizure had occurred, it was not possible for the ownership of the carving and the right to its possession to have become vested in the Crown.

employment to which the secondary action related. So the requirements of subsection (3) (a) were not satisfied. So his Lordship agreed with the Court of Appeal that there was secondary action within the meaning of section 17(2) not satisfying the requirements of subsection (3) with the result that the immunity from liability in tort granted by section 13(1) of the 1974 Act was withdrawn by section 17(1) of the 1980 Act.

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Before Mr Justice Ewbank
[Judgment delivered April 21]

A "wife-swapping" agreement made between the four spouses prior to the respective divorces that each husband would assume the financial responsibility for the other's former wife on remarriage was unenforceable and such agreement could not be enforced.

The House of Lords, on one of two preliminary issues that had been ordered to be tried in an action for the Attorney General of New Zealand seeking *inter alia* the recovery of a valuable Maori wood carving that had been exported from New Zealand allegedly in breach of the Maori Cultural Property Act 1962, held on April 21 that the on true construction of that Act and of the Customs Act 1966, an article exported in those circumstances could only be "forfeited to her Majesty" in the meaning of section 12(1) of the 1962 Act, if it was seized by the Crown, and that since no seizure had occurred, it was not possible for the ownership of the carving and the right to its possession to have become vested in the Crown.

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married life together and there had been no children. Until the beginning of 1982 the husband made the wife a voluntary allowance of £500 a month but then told the wife he was going to reduce the allowance to £250 a month for four months and would then cease to pay anything. In September 1982 the wife filed a petition for dissolution of the marriage and a decree nisi was granted in January 1983 which had not been made absolute.

The House of Lords, on one of two preliminary issues that had been ordered to be tried in an action for the Attorney General of New Zealand seeking *inter alia* the recovery of a valuable Maori wood carving that had been exported from New Zealand allegedly in breach of the Maori Cultural Property Act 1962, held on April 21 that the on true construction of that Act and of the Customs Act 1966, an article exported in those circumstances could only be "forfeited to her Majesty" in the meaning of section 12(1) of the 1962 Act, if it was seized by the Crown, and that since no seizure had occurred, it was not possible for the ownership of the carving and the right to its possession to have become vested in the Crown.

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breaking up of two marriages. It was not enforceable by law and the court should not encourage such agreements.

The wife's rights to financial provision arose from the marriage and not from the "wife-swapping" agreement. The court had to apply section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

The House of Lords, on one of two preliminary issues that had been ordered to be tried in an action for the Attorney General of New Zealand seeking *inter alia* the recovery of a valuable Maori wood carving that had been exported from New Zealand allegedly in breach of the Maori Cultural Property Act 1962, held on April 21 that the on true construction of that Act and of the Customs Act 1966, an article exported in those circumstances could only be "forfeited to her Majesty" in the meaning of section 12(1) of the 1962 Act, if it was seized by the Crown, and that since no seizure had occurred, it was not possible for the ownership of the carving and the right to its possession to have become vested in the Crown.

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At the adjourned hearing, the solicitor for the mother sought to present further evidence alleging numerous incidents of violence by the father over a long period.

The justices decided that the further evidence should be heard and remitted the case to be heard by a fresh panel.

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1982-83				1983-84				1984-85				1985-86				1986-87				1987-88			
High	Low	Other	Total	High	Low	Other	Total	High	Low	Other	Total	High	Low	Other	Total	High	Low	Other	Total	High	Low	Other	Total
Authorized Units & Insurance Funds																							
[Table containing financial data for various units and funds, including names like 'Crest Life Assurance Co', 'The Royal London Mutual Society', etc., and their respective financial figures.]																							

Fixture list for the 1983 cricket season

Prudential World Cup matches

April
FIRST CLASS MATCHES
Cambridge University v Leicestershire
Oxford University v Lancashire

May
1-OTHER MATCH
Trident: Lancashire v Gloucestershire
4-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Bristol Gloucestershire v Surrey

June
1-SENIOR AND HEDGES CUP, quarter final
2-SENIOR AND HEDGES CUP, semi-final

July
2-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby Derbyshire v Worcestershire

August
3-TOUR MATCH
Northampton: Northamptonshire v New Zealand

September
3-NATWEST TROPHY FINAL, Lord's
4-JOHN PLAYER LEAGUE

RACING

Classic contender: Wessal impressive winner of the Greenham Stakes at Newbury.
Waiting on the weather
The wet weather is playing havoc not only with the racing programme, but also with trainers' plans.

Today's racing washed out
There will be no racing in Britain today. Beverley called off their racing after a storm laid waste to the track.

Simbad's long trip pays off
Roger Fisher sent two horses on the long trip from Ulverston in Cumbria to Taunton and won with Simbad, his first runner on the course.

Point-to-point
AVE VALE (Wednesday) Members: Down to Darius Afferent. All Right Again. Highbury. Highbury. Highbury.

How the dedicated bikes-with-spikes fanatics found their answer in Sweden
Britain no longer a joke at Ben Hur game on ice
It seems that someone thought playing motorized Ben Hur on a bike was a bit tame, and came up with the bright idea: Why don't we do the same thing on ice?

RUGBY LEAGUE
A heartfelt hurrah for television
By Keith Macklin
The renewal of the television contract with the BBC was yesterday welcomed by the Rugby League, whose attitude to television is in direct contrast to that of the football authorities.

World Cup warm-up games
Zimbabwe v West Indies (one-day)
Zimbabwe v India (one-day)
Zimbabwe v Australia (one-day)



"After a while you don't really notice the spikes"

Israeli pull-out demand by Begin ministers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The rapidly mounting toll of Israeli deaths and injuries in Lebanon has prompted a minority inside the coalition Cabinet to try to press the Begin Government to stage a unilateral withdrawal to the new front line extending approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Israel's border.



Heavy cranes searching the rubble of the American Embassy in Beirut three days after the blast. They uncovered nine more bodies, bringing the total death toll to 47. (Witness freed, page 6)

Thatcher keeps party in doubt over poll date

Continued from page 1
yesterday, still have no notion of whether her preference is for a June or an October election.

BL attempts to break strike

Continued from page 1
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Frank Johnson in the Commons A miracle recovery for Finchley mother of two

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the 57-year-old Finchley mother of two who was taken ill with election fever at Prime Minister's question time last Tuesday, yesterday appeared to stage a miracle recovery.

Today's events

- Royal engagements: Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, visit Japan... The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual dinner of the Medical Women's Federation...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,110. A grid with numbers and some letters filled in, including 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues.

ACROSS: 1 Novel bridge partnership (5,3,5). 9 City requires replacement for old man on board (9). 10 Vote against annual treat for workers (5).

Food prices

Shoppers who complain that they can no longer afford beef should take a look at boneless topside and pork at 48p a pound. Sausage bacon is at 48p a pound, but better value when thinly sliced, is easy to cook; the meat will retain its juices if left with the cut side upwards.

Roads

London and the South-east: Several sets of roadworks on A2: Old Kent Road, Southwark; avoid if possible. M25: New section from junctions 27 (M11) to 29 (A127), open to public from 1pm. M1: Southbound lane closures at junction 7 (M10 turn-off); delays during morning rush-hour.

The papers

The Corby strike is not about workers cleaning up in company time, but whether the management will be able to go on dictating to the "It is time" Daily Mirror.

Anniversaries

Births: Henry Fielding, Sharpshooter, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Prussia, 1724; Madame de Staël, writer, Paris, 1766; Aleksandr Kerensky, revolutionary, Simbirsk, USSR, 1881; Kathleen Ferrier, singer, Higher Watton, Lancashire, 1912.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Disease of Fish Bill, remaining stage. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

Weather forecast

A deep depression will approach SW England from the Atlantic, and associated troughs of low pressure will move N across England and Wales. 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel islands, S Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy and thundery in places, sleet or snow on high ground, becoming brighter later; wind E, fresh to strong, locally gale, backing SW and moderating later, max temp 10 to 12 (50 to 54F).

London rainfall

In the first 20 days of this month, central London has had 2.65 inches of rain; this already makes it the third wettest April on record since 1940. The wettest was in 1966 with 3.24 inches and the second wettest in 1964 with 2.94 inches.

The pound

Table with columns: Bank, Buy, Sell. Includes entries for Australia S, Austria Sch, Belgium Fr, Canada S, Denmark Kr, Finland Mkk, France Fr, Germany DM, Greece Dr, Hongkong S, Ireland Pt, Italy Lira, Japan Yen, Netherlands Gld, Norway Kr, Portugal Esc, South Africa Rd, Spain Pta, Sweden Kr, Switzerland Fr, USA S.

Top films

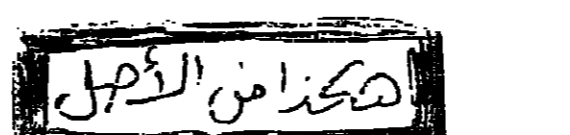
- 1) Sophie's Choice (G) (1) Gandhi (G) (2) Local Hero (G) (3) An Officer and a Gentleman (G) (4) Table for Five (G) (5) Heat and Dust (G) (6) Best Friends (G) (7) The Verdict (G) (8) 48 Hrs. (G)

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Northolt, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, St Abb's Head, 5C (43F); highest rainfall: Praserburgh, 1.2m; highest sunshine: 17hr, 12.2hr.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. High tides table for various locations including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Southampton, Cardiff, Newport, Dover, Falmouth, Newcastle, Hull, Southampton, Liverpool, Cardiff, Plymouth, Swansea, Bristol, Exeter, London, Southampton, Southampton, Southampton, Southampton. Includes a weather map and a table of high tides.



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Annual General Meeting, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, 12.10. Exhibitions in progress: Paintings and drawings by Australian artist, Mosny Bramley Moore, MacRobert Arts Centre Gallery, Stirling University, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

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Table with columns for Sun Rain, Max, Min, and other weather-related data for various locations across the UK and abroad.

